***JON’S SERMON OUTLINE….***

FAILURE IS NOT FINAL

*One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.****2****He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.****3****He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.* ***4****When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”* ***5****Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”* ***6****When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.****7****So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.* ***8****When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”****9****For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,****10****and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”****11****So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.* Luke 5:1-11

Introduction: Today’s culture is obsessed with winning. We are very quick to discard any failures along the way. We don’t know how to handle failure and often miss the *benefits* of failure. “Benefits?” you may ask. Yes, benefits. Failure can actually be our friend if we allow it. This is what we’ll see in the story of the disciples’ fishing trip in Luke 5:1-11.

1. THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OF FAILURE (5:1-3):

 a. The great heroes of the Bible failed at times.

 b. The disciples themselves were quite imperfect.

 c. Failure makes you part of God’s team.

2. THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OF FAILURE (5:4-7):

 a. Failure in the kingdom is merely a prelude to success.

 b. Failure gives us a chance to put our trust in God.

 c. In times of failure, look for God’s hand of direction.

3. THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OF FAILURE (5:8-11):

 a. God is calling us to endure to the end.

 b. There are blessings along the way and heaven in the end.

 c. Though we get weary, we’re after the bigger catch.

CONCLUSION: It’s too soon to quit!

Answers: 1. Fellowship 2. Follow-up 3. Fortune