

## DO OVER

(John 1:1-8, 19-28)

Intro: Golfers call it a mulligan.  
-Others call it a do-over.

Golfers who hit a bad shot.  
-Out of bounds.  
-Into the water.  
#Sometimes drop a new ball.  
\*Pretend the first one never happened.  
\*Try again.  
#They take a mulligan.

When I was in elementary school.  
-Playing:  
#Kickball.  
#Wiffle ball.  
-Someone:  
#Kicked.  
#Hit.  
\*Ball that landed on or near the foul line.  
-There was an argument.  
#Whether the ball was:  
\*Fair.  
\*Foul.  
#We would take a do-over.  
\*Not counting.  
+First kick.  
+First hit.  
\*We'd start over.

We human beings.  
-Make a lot of mistakes.  
-Have more than our share of arguments.  
-Wish we could:  
#Take a mulligan.  
#Have a do-over.

But what about God?  
-Does God ever take a mulligan?  
-Is there ever a divine do-over?

- I. Our Gospel Lesson For Today Suggests That There Is.
  - A. John 1 Parallels Genesis 1.
    1. In the beginning.
    2. God created by a Word.
    3. Life.
    4. Light.
    5. Darkness.
    6. 7 days.
      - a. We need to get into John 2:1.
      - b. To complete the seven days.
  - B. This Seems To Me Like A Mulligan Or A Do-Over.
    1. Genesis 1.
      - a. Creation.
    2. John 1.
      - a. New creation.
  - C. But Why Would God Need A Do-Over?
    1. Was there something wrong with God's first creation?
      - a. Flaw?
      - b. Imperfection?
    2. No.
      - a. What God made was good.
      - b. Everyday God said:
        - “It's good.”
        - “It's good.”
        - “It's very good.”
        - #Genesis 1:4.
        - #Genesis 1:10.
        - #Genesis 1:12.
        - #Genesis 1:18.
        - #Genesis 1:21.
        - #Genesis 1:25.
        - #Genesis 1:31.
    3. Yes.
      - a. God made human beings.
      - b. God gave human beings freedom to choose.
      - c. We human beings hit our ball:
        - Out of bounds.
        - Into the water.
        - #Again.
        - #Again.
        - #Again.

- d. Where God created light.
  - Human beings brought darkness.
- e. Where God created life.
  - Human beings brought death.

D. So God Played A Mulligan.

- 1. God sent another human being into the world.
  - a. Not just any human being.
  - b. God sent a divine human being.
    - Word in the flesh.
    - God's own Son.
- 2. What was different about this divine human being?
  - a. Light shines in the darkness.
    - And the darkness did not overcome it.
    - #John 1:5.
  - b. God's own Son.
    - Knew death.
    - #Most horrible death.
    - #Death on a cross.
    - Brought life out of death.

II. God's Do-Over Means That We Get A Do-Over.

A. Israel Got A Do-Over.

- 1. In fact, Israel got do-over after do-over after do-over.
- 2. Our Daytime 5x5 Group.
  - a. Studying the Minor Prophets.
  - b. Last week we were in Hosea.
  - c. Katherine Tooley asked:
    - How many covenants were there?
    - How many chances did God give the People of Israel?
  - d. I can count the covenants.
    - Noah.
      - #Genesis 8:20-9:17.
    - Abraham.
      - #Genesis 12:1-4; 15:17.
    - Moses.
      - #Exodus 19-20; 34.
    - David.
      - #2 Samuel 23:5.
    - Promise of a new covenant.
      - #Jeremiah 31:31-34.
  - e. But how many do-overs did Israel get?
    - I can't begin to count.

3. Our Old Testament Lesson For Today.
    - a. Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11.
    - b. After 50 years in exile.
      - Israel gets a do-over.
      - Release from captivity.
      - Return to their homeland.
      - Opportunity to rebuild.
    - c. More than a fresh start.
      - Salvation.
      - Promise of an everlasting covenant.
- B. How Many Do-Overs Do We Get?
1. When we:
    - a. Not only fail to give witness to the light.
      - In word.
      - In deed.
    - b. But we turn light into darkness.
  2. When we wound.
    - a. Rather than heal.
  3. When we tear down.
    - a. Rather than build up.
  4. When we rush to judgement.
    - a. Rather than trying to understand.
  5. When we hold a grudge.
    - a. Rather than forgiving.
- C. We Don't Deserve A Do-Over.
1. We are like John.
    - a. Here he is not John the Baptizer.
    - b. He is John the Witness.
      - Not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals.  
#That was a slave's job.
      - It's not that John didn't know how to tie and untie sandals.  
#It's that he wasn't worthy.
      - My granddaughter Sophia has more shoes.  
#She may give Imelda Marcos a run for her Nikes.  
#In fairness.  
\*Sophia is growing out of some of her shoes.  
\*She's growing into others.
      - #But she's got:  
\*White shoes.  
\*Brown shoes.  
\*Black shoes.  
\*Even a pair of red sandals that squeak when she walks.

#Sometimes we can find a matching pair.

\*Sometimes we have:

+One brown one.

+One white one.

#Sophia is learning to put on her own shoes.

\*Although mostly she loves to take off her shoes.

+Sometimes she needs help.

+But more and more she is doing it by herself.

\*Most of the time.

+She gets:

=Right shoe on the right foot.

=Left shoe on the left foot.

\*Her shoes all have Velcro straps.

+So she doesn't have to tie shoe laces.

\*Even a 19-20 month old can do shoes.

+It's not about skill.

+It's about worthiness.

2. Who of us is worthy?
  - a. To play a mulligan.
  - b. To claim we deserve a do-over.
3. Yet that is what we receive.
  - a. Again and again.
  - b. By the grace of God.
4. Here's how St. Paul describes:
  - a. New and everlasting covenant.
  - b. Life lived in the light of God's salvation.
    - Rejoice always.
    - Pray without ceasing.
    - Give thanks in all circumstances.
    - Do not quench the Spirit.
    - Hold fast to what is good.
    - Abstain from every form of evil.

#1 Thessalonians 5:16-20.
5. When, where, and how that happens, it happens:
  - a. Not because we are always so faithful.
  - b. But because God is faithful.
    - 1 Thessalonians 5:24.

Concl: God does it.  
-In water and Word.  
-In bread and wine.

God plays a mulligan.  
-For our sin.  
-For our salvation.

God has a do-over.  
-By the grace of God.  
#So do we.