

Lessons from Failure



John 21:1-17

Did You Know That...

- Henry Ford failed to put a reverse gear in his 1st car?
- Thomas Edison failed in 1,000 experiments inventing lightbulb?
- Abraham Lincoln lost nine elections/ failed in business twice before being elected president?
- Albert Einstein was dismissed from school because he lacked interest in his studies, failed an entrance exam to a school in Zurich/ was later fired from his job as a tutor?
- Beethoven's music teacher, said he would never compose any worthwhile music because he failed to follow the rules of musical composition? Plus he was Deaf!
- Michael Jordan failed to make the junior-varsity basketball team when he tried out, and later the school principal told him to consider enlisting in the Air Force Academy after high school, which would be his best option for a career?

The Road to Success is Lined w- Failures

For Some...

Failure Becomes:

- **Self...**
 - **Description**
 - **Restriction**
 - **Destruction**



For Some...

Failure Becomes:

- **Fresh...**
 - **Challenge**
 - **Opportunity**
 - **Start**



The Road to Success is Lined w- Failures

Some People Want to Play It Safe

- **They Just Want Security**
- **No Risks**

Douglas MacArthur said,

"There is no security on this earth. There is only opportunity"

Chinese Symbol for Crisis (Danger and Opportunity)

- **It's all in Your Perspective**
- **Until You Are Willing to Risk...**
...You Will Remain Imprisoned In Our World Of Fear

Life is Full of Risks

- **Faith is a Risk**
- **Love is a Risk**
- **Serving God is a Risk**
- **Financial Investing is a Risk**
- **Career Change is a Risk**
- **Following Your Dream is a Risk**
- **Stealing Home Plate is a Risk**
- **Marriage is a Risk**
- **Having Children is a Risk**

When You Take the Willingness to Risk Failure and...

**...Couple It with Sound Wisdom and Faith in God,
Nothing is Impossible!**

Sometimes Failure Hits Us Hard

Just Like it Did Simon Peter When he Denied Christ

- He Went Out from "*hall of judgment*" and Wept Bitterly
- But That's Not Enough

If All You Do Is Weep Bitterly Over Your Failures...

...You Will Never Be Any Better Off For Having Failed

- Don't Waste Your Sorrows
- Use Your Failures to Become Better, Not Bitter
- Remember –God Never Wastes Your Pain!



Five Lessons About Facing Our Failures from Peter's Experience

#1- Failure Is Never Final (4)

After Jesus' Resurrection,

▪ **Peter Still Felt So...**

- **Discouraged**

- **Useless**

...**Because He Denied Jesus**

...**He Told The Others, "*I'm Going Fishing*"**

... **I've Failed ...Jesus Can't Use Me ...I'm Going Back (3)**

Jesus Came Seeking...

- **What Joy to Know that Christ Comes Looking For Us When We Fail**

- *"Early in the morning"*

- **Speaks of a New Day, a New Opportunity, a New Beginning**

- **We Can Put the Past Behind Us / Reach For What is Ahead**



#2- “ “ Does Not Change Our Status W- God (5)

John 21:5 (NIV) He called out to them, *“Friends, haven’t you any fish?”*
“No,” they answered.

“Friends” -a Word of Intimacy

- He Called Them Friends the Night of the Last Supper -John 15:15
- Its Means that We Are Close to Him/ He Is Close to Us.
- Abraham was Called the Friend of God -2 Chronicles 20:7
- Moses Spoke W- Him as His Friend -Exodus 33:11



#3- Failure Can Be Transformed Into Success (6)

"Throw your nets in again"

- **Try again**

There is No Shame in Trying and Failing

- **The Shame Lies in Being Too Afraid to Try in the First Place**
- **Jonah- the Word of the Lord Came the Second Time**

They Caught 153 Fish

- **153 species of fish in the Mediterranean -Jerome**
- **Referred to Their Success to Evangelize the Entire World**
- **Try again!**



#4- Failure Does Not Mean You Are a Failure (12)

"Come and have breakfast"

**The Communal Meal of Close Friendship is Depicted So Beautifully
Eating is Synonymous with Fellowship**

- **The Bread/ Fish Reminded Them of Feeding the 5,000**
- **Passover**
- **Two Disciples on the Emmaus Road when Eyes were Opened**

Failure Does Not Have to Permanently Scar Your Life

In Christ, Old Things Pass Away, and All Things Become New!

Jesus' Invitation is, *"Come and have breakfast!"*



#5- “ “ Does Not Disqualify Us for Service (15-17)

Jesus told Peter, "*Feed my sheep*"

- Jesus was Giving Him a 2nd Call
- 4 Years Earlier- "*Come, follow me*" (Matt 4:19; Mark 1:17)
- God is the God of a Second Chance.

We See this Same Principle in

- Jonah: "*The word of the Lord came to Jonah a 2nd time*" (3:1)
- Jeremiah: God Spoke to Him a Second Time (33:1)

**Whatever Failure You Have Experienced,
...Get Back Up Today By Grace**

- **Get Back in the Game of Life**
- **Get Back to Work for Jesus**
- **God's Not Finished with You Yet!**



