



Failing Forward Pt 2 Mt 26:31-56

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov. 6th

Failure is a common denominator. It's also like a two edged sword; Carrying with it seeds of blessing & bane. The very "humiliation" that failure brings can produce humility, Which can result in God's Grace! (Jms 4:6) It's possible to "Fail Forward", using the pain and disappointment of our failures to draw us closer to God. (Mt 11:29,30) God specializes in bringing "*Beauty out of Ashes*". (Is. 61:1-3; Rq. 8:28,29; Phil. 1:12)

Reflection: Understanding Failure

- **Failure Is Universal** *"All ye shall be offended because of me..."* Vs 31 (Ro. 3:23; Eccl. 7:20)
- **Failure Is An Indicator; It reveals deeper issues. Mt 26:40-41**
"could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation:"
- **Failure Is Subjective.** Gen. 50:20 *"ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good"*
"Jesus Christ's life was an absolute failure from every standpoint but God's." Oswald Chambers

Direction: Failing Forward involves

- Using the pain and disappointment of our failures to draw us closer to God.
(Mt 11:29,30; James 4:6-10) *"Beauty out of Ashes"*. (Is. 61:1-3)
- Cultivating a teachable spirit enabling us to learn from our failures.

1. What Caused The Failure?

Unless / until you learn this, you're bound to repeat the failure.

"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." Albert Einstein

Spiritual / Moral Failure is caused by:

A. **Satan:** *"Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat..."* Lk 22:31

1 Pt 5:8 *"your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."*

B. **Society:** (Culture) 1Jn 5:19 *"the whole world lieth in wickedness"* (poneros: disease)

1) Where was Peter when he denied Christ? Lk 22:54-62

1 Cor 15:33 *"Be not deceived: evil communications (homilia: companions) corrupt good manners."* (ethos: habits)

2 Tim. 4:10 *"Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world"* Phil. 3:17-20; 1 Jn 2:15,16

C. **Self:** *"the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."* Mt 26:41

Ro 7:18 *"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:"*

Gal 5:17 *"the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary one to the other..."*

2. How Can I Learn From The Failure?

A. Some are so distracted (or disgusted), that they can't (or won't) look for the lesson.

1) God doesn't want to waste a hurt. 2 Cor 1:3-4 *"the God of all comfort; Who comfort us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."*

B. God usse "all things" to grow us. Ro. 8:28,29 *"all things work together for good to them that love God"*

Ps 119:71 *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."*

James 1:2-5 *"the trying of your faith worketh patience..."*

3. Who Can Help Me With This failure? *Peter went back to the Apostles.*

A. Who can help me “live” through the mistake? (*Comfort*)

B. Who can help me “Learn” through the mistake? (*Counsel*)

1) Those who’ve survived failure make the best comforters and counselors.

(Ps. 40:1-3; 51:12,13; Ro. 5:3-5; Gal. 6:1,2)

4. Where Do I Go From Here?

A. Too many move away from God after their failures!

1) In their book “Everyone’s a Coach” Don Shula & Ken Blanchard observe that: *“Learning involves a change in behavior. You haven’t really learned a thing until you can take action and use it.”*

B. John 21 illustrates this principle with Peter’s restoration.

1) *“I go a fishing...we all go with thee”* Vs 3

2) After a fruitless night Jesus calls (vs 5) and directs them (vs 6) thereby repeating the miracle he first used to reach them. (Compare Jn 21:1-6 to Lk 5:1-11)

3) Peter recognizes and swims to Jesus. (Vs 7)

4) After lunch Jesus asked 3 times: *“Lovest thou me more than these?...Feed my lambs...feed my sheep”*

Jn 21:15, 16, 17

Conclusion:

Without some conscious changes, we won’t be able to Fail Forward!

Lasting Change usually requires that we:

1) Hurt enough we’re motivated to change.

2) Learn enough we’re able to change.

3) Love enough we’re willing to change. *“Lovest thou me more than these?”* Jn 21:15

Rev 2:4-5 *“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”*

Application:

Jesus came to redeem our failures! Is 61:1-3 *“the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, ... to comfort all that mourn; to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”* (See Luke 4:14-22)

God can redeem our failures if we’re willing to partner with him (Mt 11:28,29) and humbly and honestly:

➤ **Seek to understand what caused them.** (James 1:2-5)

➤ **Be willing to learn from them.** (Ro. 8:28,29)

➤ **Learn to lean on (and learn from) others.** (Gal. 6:1-2)

➤ **Listen to God’s voice and direction for the next steps in your faith journey.** (Pr. 3:5,6)

What Satan did to Peter and the Apostles; he will seek to do to us!

Lk. 22:31,32 *“Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I’ve prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”*



Thankfully, what Jesus did for them, He does for us! Heb. 4:14-16 *“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*