

Moving from failure to success

“People are training for success when they should be training for failure. Failure is far more common than success; poverty is more prevalent than wealth; and disappointment more normal than arrival.” - J. Wallace Hamilton

“The sons of Israel acted unfaithfully.” Joshua 7:1

“I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.” Joshua 8:1

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand.” Psalm 37:23-24

“I am not going to boast in my strength, but in the Lord. When I am weak, when I see my need of Christ, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:10

Lessons I have learned in failing:

1. Failing forward requires humility.
2. Failing forward requires change (repentance).
3. Failing forward requires being tough.
4. Failing forward requires being teachable.
5. Failing forward can do more for your character than initial success.

Ai represents the battles we fight that are minor, yet unsuccessful.

“The city of Ai was not significant, but it was strategic. Jericho was taken supernaturally, while Ai was taken strategically.” - Eugene Peterson

7 Things Failure Is Not

1. People Think Failure Is Avoidable—It's Not.
2. People Think Failure Is an Event—It's Not.
3. People Think Failure Is Objective—It's Not.
4. People Think Failure Is the Enemy—It's Not.
5. People Think Failure Is Irreversible—It's Not.
6. People Think Failure Is a Stigma—It's Not.
7. People Think Failure Is Final—It's Not.

-John Maxwell

“Though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.” Proverbs 24:16

“Then afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of the law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel with the women and the little ones and the strangers who were living among them.” Joshua 8:34-35

Fusion Group Questions:

1. What did the Holy Spirit speak to you through this text and sermon?
2. How do you need to respond?
3. How can we create a kind of environment that helps us fail forward?
4. Share an example of a situation that seemed like it was a failure, but God used it to set you up for success?
5. How important is how we think about failure?
6. How has this teaching impacted your thoughts on failure?
7. Is anyone going through a difficult time right now that you would like to share with your group?