

Where is Your Focus? -- Failing Forward
Luke 5:1-11

I. Peter had some significant failures.

A. Occasionally, he failed to catch fish.

“Master, we toiled all night and took nothing” (v. 5)

B. More significantly, Peter had failed at life.

“I am a sinful man” (v. 8)

C. Most significantly, Peter initially failed to believe that God’s grace was greater than his sin.

“Depart from me Lord” (v. 8)

II. Peter had some significant failures, but by God’s grace he was not a failure.

A. In Christ, Peter became a rock.

“Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men” (vs. 10-11)

B. In Christ, Peter was not a failure, and neither are we.

Questions for Discussion and Further Reflection

1. What do you think was Peter's relationship with failure? Was he afraid to fail?
2. How did Jesus treat Peter's failures?
3. What can our failures teach us about life?
4. How can you change your relationship with failure? How can you make failure your friend?
5. What happens inside of you whenever you fail? Are you *failing* enough in your life?
6. Are you focused on your failures, or on God's preferred future?



Failing Forward

Luke 5:1-11

Peter experienced some significant failures in life.

Peter had some significant failures.

Occasionally, he failed to catch fish.

"Master, we toiled all night and took nothing..." (vs.5)

Peter had some significant failures.

More significantly, Peter had failed in life.

"...I am a sinful man!" (vs.8)

Peter had some significant failures.

Most significantly, Peter initially failed to believe that God's grace was greater than his sin.

"Depart from me, Lord" ... (vs.8)

Peter experienced
some significant
failures in life...
But so have we.

*"For all have sinned and fall
short of the glory of God."*

Romans 3:23

*"All we like sheep have gone
astray; We have turned---every
one---to his own way..."*

Isaiah 53:6a

Peter experienced
some significant
failures in life...

...But by God's
grace, he was not
a failure.

In Christ, Peter became a rock.

*"...And Jesus said to Simon, Do
not be afraid, from now on you
will be catching men, and when
they had brought the boats to
land, they left everything and
followed Him." (vs.10-11)*

*"...Who do you say that I am?
Simon Peter replied, 'You are
the Christ, The Son of the
Living God.'"*

Matthew 16:15-16

*"And Jesus answered him,
'Blessed are you, Simon, son of
John. For flesh and blood has
not revealed this to you, but my
Father who is in Heaven.'"*

Matthew 16:17

*"And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my
church and the gates of hell will
not prevail against it."*

Matthew 16:18

In Christ, Peter was
NOT a failure.
Neither are we.

*"All we like sheep have gone
astray; We have turned ---
every one --- to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all."*

Isaiah 53:6

*"For the wages of sin is
death, but the free gift of
God is eternal life in Christ
Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 6:23

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; It is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one can boast."

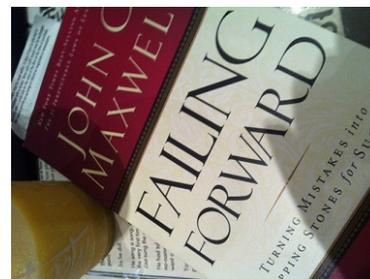
Ephesians 2:8-9

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

"It is not your past that will defeat you in your Christian life. Jesus Christ died for your past. You might have dropped the ball and Satan is working like crazy telling you that you will never amount to anything. ... God always starts with you right where you are."

*Dr. Howard Hendricks
A Life of Integrity*



"God uses people who fail cause there aren't any other kind around."

*John Maxwell
Failing Forward*

"But all at once, I realized that it was not my success God had used to enable me to help those in this prison, or in hundreds of others just like it. My life of success was not what made this morning so glorious -- all my achievements meant nothing in God's economy."

*Chuck Colson
Loving God*

"No, the real legacy of my life was my biggest failure -- that I was an ex-convict. My greatest humiliation -- being sent to prison -- was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life; He chose the one thing in which I could not glory for His glory."
Chuck Colson
Loving God

