



Calvary of Albuquerque

I've Fallen, but I CAN Get Up! - John 16:29-33

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

I would rather fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail! So said President Woodrow Wilson. Our Lord knows us better than we know ourselves and is not surprised by our weaknesses. We all fall and fail, even though we may commit to standing strong. What can we learn about ourselves and our God in such valleys? Even more, what kind of restoration can we hope for after our bout with failure?

OUTLINE

- I. Our Faith is Unreliable: Bragging (vv. 29-30)
 - A. "We Know"
 - B. "We Believe"
- II. Our Failure is Understandable: Blundering (vv. 31-32)
 - A. Confused
 - B. Scattered
- III. Our Future is Unmistakable: Blessing (v. 33)
 - A. Promise of Peace
 - B. Promise of Victory



But Wait, There's More!

1. What do you think these disciples really understood?
2. What area of your life is the least peaceful right now? Why? What would bring peace to this area? What will you do this week to further that peace?
3. When were you tempted to run away from your God-given responsibility? What was the result?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Failure
 1. We all fail, fall, and struggle
 2. Failure should be an instructor, never an undertaker
 3. The disciples would fall
 - a. Their faith would be shaken
 - b. Doubt would fill their minds
 - c. Their failure was not permanent: they would get up and stand strong again
 4. We all start life as failures
 - a. Walk: fall down
 - b. Swim: nearly drown
 - c. Swing at a ball: miss
 5. None has maintained a perfect witness for Jesus Christ: key is getting up
 6. Abraham Lincoln

- a. Failed as a businessman in 1831
 - b. Defeated for Legislature in 1832
 - c. Elected to Legislature in 1834
 - d. Sweetheart died in 1835
 - e. Nervous breakdown in 1836
 - f. Defeated for Speaker of the House in 1838
 - g. Defeated for Congress in 1843
 - h. Elected to Congress in 1846
 - i. Defeated for Congress in 1848
 - j. Defeated for Senate in 1850
 - k. Defeated for Vice Presidency in 1856
 - l. Defeated for Senate in 1858
 - m. Elected President
- 7. When you fail, you can get up and have a deep sense of peace and victory
- B. Context: Upper Room Discourse (John 13-16)
 - 1. One of the longest recorded messages Jesus gave His disciples
 - 2. Passover night
 - 3. Half presented in the Upper Room at the Passover meal
 - 4. Walking toward the Garden of Gethsemane (John 15-16)
 - 5. Jesus has said a lot
 - a. Most the disciples confessed they didn't understand
 - b. They now assert they do understand
 - c. Jesus predicts they will fail, fall, be scattered
 - d. Ultimately they will have His peace, His victory
- II. Our Faith is Unreliable: Bragging (vv. 29-30)
 - A. "We Know"
 - 1. He has told them He is leaving in figurative language: "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.' Then some of His disciples said among themselves, 'What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father?' They said therefore, 'What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying.'" (John 16:16-18)
 - 2. Jesus explains more plainly:
 - a. "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father.'" (John 16:25)
 - b. "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.'" (John 16:28)
 - 3. Disciples boldly say they know and believe
 - a. When Confused
 - i. Didn't tell Jesus
 - ii. Told each other: "Then some of His disciples said among themselves, 'What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father?'" (John 16:17)
 - B. "We Believe"
 - 1. Faulty assertion
 - a. Their faith was not as strong as they thought it was
 - b. They will be confused and scattered
 - c. "Peter answered and said to Him, 'Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.' Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.' Peter said to Him, 'Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!' And so said all the disciples." (Matthew 26:33-35)
 - 2. They meant well, but their faith was weak and unreliable
 - a. Their belief was attached to an unrealistic expectation
 - b. Believed Jesus would immediately set up His Messianic kingdom
 - c. "Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?'" (Acts 1:6)
 - C. We say we believe in God and know certain theological truths: Be careful!
 - 1. "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12)
 - 2. "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)
 - 3. We may believe in things Jesus never promised
 - a. New Christians: no troubles
 - b. According to *Religion Watch*: "Pentecostals are three times more likely than other Christians to experience major depression, according to a Vanderbilt University study. The overall group, in this case 2850 North Carolinians over a 6-month period experienced serious depression at the rate of 1.7%; whereas the rate among Pentecostals was 5.4%. Researchers surmise that the higher rate may be partly because people who are already depressed may be attracted to Pentecostalism's emphasis on physical and spiritual healing."
 - 4. What exactly do you believe?
 - a. What He said?
 - b. All His promises?
 - c. A select one?
 - d. Something He never said
 - 5. When expectations aren't met, we may be sorely disappointed
- III. Our Failure is Understandable: Blundering (vv. 31-32)

A. Confused

1. Do you?
 - a. They would doubt
 - b. When He is on the cross, the doubt takes over
 - c. Disciples on the road to Emmaus: "We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." (Luke 24:21 NIV)
2. Our confusion
 - a. "There is a window in your heart through which you can see God. Once upon a time the window was clear. Your view of God was crisp. You could see God as vividly as you could see a gentle valley or hillside. The glass was clean, the pane unbroken. You knew God. You knew how he worked. You knew what he wanted you to do. No surprises. Nothing unexpected. You knew that God had a will, and you continually discovered what it was. Then, suddenly, the window cracked. A pebble broke the window. A pebble of pain.... Whatever the pebble's form, the result was the same—a shattered window. The pebble missed into the pane and shattered it.... Before your pain, the view was clear; God seemed so near. After your pain, well, he was harder to see. He seemed a bit distant . . . harder to perceive. Your pain distorted the view—not eclipsed it, but distorted it." -- Max Lucado
 - b. Hold fast!
 - i. When you come out of faith-shaking storms, it's clearer and better
 - ii. False expectations are pushed away

B. Scattered

1. Σκοπίζω; skorpizó - disperse, scatter abroad (as of sheep)
2. They were together, but when Jesus is arrested they will run
3. "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered;" (Zechariah 13:7; see also Matthew 26:31 and Mark 14:27)
4. They said they "We know, we believe;" Jesus said, "You will leave me alone."
 - a. Leave Jesus to His enemies;
 - b. What of their knowledge and belief?
5. Jesus reaction
 - a. He didn't castigate them
 - b. He was compassionate and broken-hearted
6. Jesus knew they would fail Him
 - a. Your faith is weak
 - b. You will run away
 - c. Predicts their recovery and peace
7. In a trial, do not walk away from the company of God's people
 - a. Run to God's people
 - b. A soldier who goes on his own isn't safe: he is either killed or captured

IV. Our Future is Unmistakable: Blessing (v. 33)

A. Promise of Peace

1. These things (all He has spoken)
 - a. He loved them (demonstrated by washing their feet)
 - b. Heaven
 - c. They would do greater works than He
 - d. The Holy Spirit would work powerfully through them
 - e. How to talk to God
2. Despite hostility, tribulation, persecution, and confusion, you can have peace and victory
3. Peace defined:
 - a. Absence of conflict (inadequate)
 - b. Presence of God in the midst of conflict
 - c. *Peace in the Midst of the Storm*, (painting) by Jack. E. Dawson

B. Promise of Victory

1. Θλίψις; thlipsis - pressure, tribulation
2. "I have overcome the world"
 - a. Past tense
 - b. He would go to the cross and conquer sin
 - c. He will conquer the world at His Second Coming
 - d. I guarantee it; it's as good as done
 - e. Satan uses the world to overcome you; Jesus has overcome the world
 - f. We are still attacked in the death throes of a defeated enemy
3. How to live in a world that gives us tribulation
 - a. Victim - overcome by the world
 - b. Victor - overcome the world
 - i. Compensation (inadequate) - clench fists, grit teeth, look toward heaven
 - ii. Transformation - in the midst of tribulation, roots go deep, find refreshment
 - c. "As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools." (Psalm 84:6)
 - d. Ted and Dorothy Hustead of Wall Drug
 - i. Drought of 1832
 - ii. Signs as far as New York and Paris
 - iii. Live by motto "Pain is inevitable, misery is optional"

Greek Terms: Σκοπίζω; skorpizó - disperse, scatter abroad (as of sheep); Θλίψις; thlipsis - pressure, tribulation

Figures referenced: Abraham Lincoln; Max Lucado; Ted and Dorothy Hustead

Publications referenced: *Religion Watch*, published by Religioscope Institute; *Peace in the Midst of the Storm*, by Jack. E. Dawson

Cross references: Psalm 84:6; Proverbs 16:18; Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:31; Matthew 26:33-35; Mark 14:27; Luke 24:21; John 16:16-18; John 16:25; John 16:28; Acts 1:6; 1 Corinthians 10:12

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