



September 21, 2018

Ministry Jottings: People Think Failure is Avoidable – It's Not

"Then Jesus asked them, "Young men, haven't you caught anything?" "Not a thing," they answered." He said to them, "Throw your net out on the right side of the boat, and you will catch some." – John 21 5-6

A woman and her grandmother, a very forgiving and religious soul, were sitting on their porch discussing a member of the family. "He's just no good," the young woman said. "He's completely untrustworthy, not to mention lazy."

"Yes, he's bad," the grandmother said as she rocked back and forth in her rocker, "but Jesus loves him." "I'm not so sure of that," the younger woman persisted. "Oh, yes," assured the elder lady, "Jesus loves him." She rocked thought for a few more minutes and then added, "Of course, Jesus doesn't know him like we do."

You've heard the saying "To err is human, to forgive divine." Alexander Pope in writing that was paraphrasing a saying common 2,000 years ago, during the time of the Romans & Jesus. If you're a human being you are going to make mistakes.

John Maxwell picks this up and gives us the Rules for Being Human

- Rule #1 You will learn lessons.
- Rule #2 There are no mistakes – only lessons.
- Rule #3 A lesson is repeated until it is learned.
- Rule #4 If you don't learn the easy lesson, they get harder {Pain is one way the universe gets your attention}.
- Rule #5 You'll know you've learned a lesson when your actions change.

As Christians, we look to both the Old and the New Testament to learn how to move forward from mistakes, from failure. The disciples, right after Jesus' death, were discouraged and went back to their fishing, and even then couldn't catch anything. The resurrected Jesus appeared to them. They didn't recognize him at first as he was on the shore and they were out in their boat. He encouraged them to try a different approach, to listen to his guidance, and to keep on persisting. His same message comes to us in our lives as disciples today.

This theme continues in Sunday's message -- "Failing Forward", part of our series on Life Lessons from Proverbs. I hope you can be with us.

In Christ's grace,
Pastor Deb