

SERMON NOTES:

Series: The Big Letdown | Part 3: Trashed Plans and Broken Dreams

Even when our plans fail, God's purposes prevail.

5 LESSONS FROM THE FIREY FURNACE OF FAILURE

LESSON #1: Find a true friend - fast.

LESSON #2: Be careful not to rank your pain as more important than the pain of those around you.

LESSON #3: Failure is a necessary part of life (especially if you are ever going to plan big or dream big).
So, fail fast, and fail forward.

"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"

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

³We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

John Maxwell - *Failing Forward* Quotes:

- "The more you do, the more you fail. The more you fail, the more you learn. The more you learn, the better you get."
- "If you're not failing, you're probably not really moving forward."
- "God uses people who fail—'cause there aren't any other kind around."
- "If you could kick the person responsible for most of your troubles, you wouldn't be able to sit down for weeks."
- "Every successful person is someone who failed, yet never regarded himself as a failure."
- "There is no achievement without failure."
- "If at First You Do Succeed, Try Something Harder"
- "Past hurts can make you bitter or better—the choice is yours."

LESSON #4: Don't waste your season of recovery; make it also a season of preparation.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT)

⁴Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant.
If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.

LESSON #5: God will not waste your suffering; so, don't waste it either.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NLT)

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. ⁵ For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:8-11 (NLT)

⁸ We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. ⁹ In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us. ¹¹ And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety.

God's dreams are infinitely better than our dreams.

God's plans are infinitely better than our plans.

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Here is the truth we need: **the process of seeking God is often more important than the outcome.**

Colossians 1:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)

⁹ We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

Proverbs 19:21 (NLT)

²¹ You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail.

James 4:13-16 (NLT)

¹³ Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." ¹⁴ How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. ¹⁵ What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

Do we seek God and his plans, or do we ask him only to bless ours?

Proverbs 16:3 (CEV)

³ Share your plans with the Lord, and you will succeed.