



When Faith Fails | Jordan Hansen, Lead Pastor Matthew 17:14-20

Failure → How do I overcome a failure of faith?

→ Summary Transition: We've all experienced failure. And in order to overcome our dysfunctional relationship with failure, we need to learn that failure is not final when it comes to God. He wants to teach us to wait on Him, to believe that Jesus more than simply a problem solver in our lives, and to grow from our failures. In the world of faith, failure doesn't have to be FINAL, if our faith is in Jesus, not a result! → Mt. 17:14-16

14-16 *At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. 16 So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn't heal him."*

Our faith fails when we fail to wait on God. → Nobody likes to wait...

- Moses & the Golden Calf → When we fail to wait on God... we end up worshipping something GOOD, but not God.
 - Cows: Good...but not God.
 - Gold: Good...but not God.
 - Amazon: Good...but not God.
 - Medicine: Good...but not God.
 - Science: Good...but not God.
 - Career: Good...but not God.
 - Spouse: Good...but not God.
 - Kids: Good...but not God!
 - Spiritual gifts: Good...but not God!
 - Good over God. → Creation over Creator. → Gifts over gift giver.
- **The last thing we want to be is successful...without waiting on God. THAT'S FAILURE!** → Mk. 9:29
- VISION: 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting. Mesa Launch Team.... WE ARE WAITING ON THE LORD!

→ Repeat. ...our faith fails when we refuse to believe Jesus is bigger than our problem.

17-15 *Jesus said, "You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." 18 Then Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and it left him. From that moment the boy was well.*

Our faith fails when we fail to believe Jesus is bigger than our problems. → Jesus BELIEVES in you!

- Hermon → Tabor/Map → Mesa → Tabor/Art → Our problems have a tendency to overwhelm us...
- **Even though we've failed to put our faith in God, Jesus still has faith in us!** → Why is Jesus so harsh?
- Anybody have kids? → Exasperated...bc Jesus has more faith in us, than we do in Him.
- Jesus expects more faith from those who have experienced His faithfulness:
 - Jesus healed "them all." (Mt. 4:23-24)
 - Jesus healed the man with leprosy (Mt. 8:2-3)
 - Jesus healed the centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13).
 - Jesus stills the storm (Matthew 8:23-27).
 - Jesus cured two demoniacs (Matthew 8:28-34).
 - Jesus cured the paralytic (Matthew 9:1-8).
 - Jesus raised the ruler's daughter from the dead (Matthew 9:18-26).
 - Jesus opened the eyes of two blind men (Matthew 9:27-31).
 - Jesus loosened the tongue of a man who could not speak (Matthew 9:32-33).

- Jesus restored a withered hand (Matthew 12:10-13).
 - Jesus cured a demon-possessed man (Matthew 12:22).
 - Jesus fed at least five thousand people (Matthew 14:15-21).
 - Jesus healed a woman of Canaan (Matthew 15:22-28).
 - Jesus feeds the four thousand (Matthew 15:32-39).
 - We can rely on the ONE who has proven reliable. → The dad asks for help. - Mk. 9:24
 - **Declare Jesus Lord over ALL!** → My dad lived for 8 more years! → My bracelet snapped.
 - VISION: We are a church that won't stop praying for healing.
- Repeat. Repeat. ...our faith fails when we refuse to learn.

19-20 *Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?"*
20 *"You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."*

Our faith fails when we fail to learn. → At least the disciples are asking the question... "why couldn't we?"

- The disciples would all go on to have powerful ministries of healing, delivering, preaching, & miracles.
 - People said we didn't have enough faith when my dad died. → Only Jesus can tell us what we're suppose to learn.
 - We over-rely on spiritual gifts & under-rely on God speaking to us through His Word & in prayer.
 - The disciples didn't have ENOUGH faith. But what comes out of his mouth next is what brings such HOPE...
 - Mustard sized faith moves mountains. → **Mustard Seed → Faith starts small... & GROWS!**
 - Focus on the next step instead of the final result. Trust God along the way!
 - Mustard seeds don't stay small forever... so be prepared for your seed to grow!
 - Jackson Rogers / Habitat for Humanity: \$100 turned into \$50k
 - VISION: Canvassing project = 15k homes 3 times a year. 450 people will find a faith family they can belong to...
- **Failure isn't final if our faith is in Jesus, not a result!** → PRAYER: "Father, help my faith to grow as i wait for you, declare Jesus Lord over ALL, and learn to star small!"

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Has my faith ever failed? What resulted in that season of my walk with the Lord?
2. How does my faith fail when I fail to wait on the Lord? Is it possible to be successful at the wrong things?
3. How does my faith fail when I refuse to believe Jesus is bigger than my problems? How do i correct this?
4. How does my faith fail when I fail to learn? Why am I afraid to start small?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help us to wait on you, Lord over all, as you grow our faith."

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **Book:** "Crazy Faith: It's Only Crazy Until It Happens" by Michael Todd
- "[Adoration of the Golden Calf](#) is a painting by Nicolas Poussin, produced between 1633 and 1634. It depicts the adoration of the golden calf by the Israelites, from chapter 32 of the Book of Exodus."
- [The Transfiguration](#) (1520), painted by Rafael, is now in Room VIII of the Vatican's Pinacoteca.
- **Download the Top Ten List Tool:** <https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/C4amc4P2CxZHmnK1AXmm9RWf>

QUOTES / SONGS:

Jackson Rogers, ten, raised enough money to put up a house for the homeless. The young entrepreneur said he took on the fund-raising project for Habitat for Humanity in February when he accepted \$100 and a challenge from his pastor at First Presbyterian Church.

"My pastor gave me a hundred dollars and told me to do something good to help someone," said Jackson, one of several congregants who accepted their pastor's challenge. They were told to use the money for good and then report on what they did.

At first Jackson's father was hesitant about letting his son take up such a daunting task, but Jackson was determined. "I was discouraging him from volunteering because I didn't know what the pastor intended. But he pulled away from me and ran down there," the father said.

Jackson knew he wanted to help a homeless family. But he wasn't sure how to do that, so he asked his dad. What they came up with was a letter-writing campaign asking for donations to raise \$50,000 to build a house through Habitat for Humanity. Jackson then wrote a letter in his own handwriting on notebook paper. "I used the hundred dollars to buy stamps and paper," he said. He then sent out letters to friends and family.

One woman was so touched by his letter that she passed it on to several of her friends and colleagues. Soon, people from Tennessee, Virginia, and Idaho were sending in checks. The 170 people who responded contributed a total of \$43,000. When the congregation at First Presbyterian learned the little miracle-worker was \$7,000 short of his goal, people chipped in the rest.

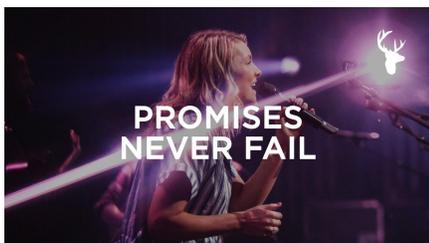
"A little person can do something really good. You don't have to wait to be an adult," said Jackson's mother.

— Ron Wilson,

"Ten-Year-Old Raises \$43,000

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

"In my time with the Lord this morning, this word came to me and I wanted to share it with you. We are standing on Mt. Nebo looking into the promised land and Jericho lies before us. And we will see the walls fall and victory will be ours because of the Lord our God." — John Huntley, 7/14, 5:42am



SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Mark 9:29

29 Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer."

Exodus 32:1

32 When the people saw how long it was taking Moses to come back down the mountain, they gathered around Aaron. "Come on," they said, "make us some gods who can lead us. We don't know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt."

Mark 9:23-24

23 "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."
24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Hebrews 11:1

11 Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:6

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Hebrews 11:30-31

30 It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.

31 It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.
2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Matthew 4:23-24

23 Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. 24 News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all.

Matthew 6:30

And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

MESA VISION LINKS:

- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision.Leadership Values](#)
- How can I help launch Mesa Church in September?: [Learn how to Pray / Invest / Invite my friends!](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

MESA GROWTH LINKS:

- How can I grow spiritually? Coming soon.
- How can I grow as a leader? Coming soon.
- What books would you recommend? Click: [Book Recommendations](#)
- Where are Jordan's Interviews? Click: [Talks with Jordan](#)

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