



# *Failing Forward*

*Reframing*



*Recap*

*We are failing at failure*



## Recap

*In failure, Satan plants doubt.*

*In failure, Satan accuses/reminds.*

*In failure, Satan plants hopelessness.*

*In failure, Satan plants fear.*

*The enemy wants to  
overemphasize failure  
because in doing this he de-  
emphasizes God's forgiveness*



The **accuser** knows your name,  
but calls you by your **sin**.

**God** knows your sin,  
but calls you by your **name**.

We have made church an  
**unsafe** place to fail, thus  
driving behaviours that  
should be exposed to the  
light deeper into dark places



# *Three Things To Learn From Failure, David Bedrick*

*Failure as intelligent resistance  
to our intended goal*

*Intelligent resistance tells us that we are  
wasting energy towards our goal*

*Failure as course correction*

*Failure can also result because the goals that we  
think we have are not our true or deepest goals*

*Failure as a shift in our vision of success*

*Failure can also result because our very definition  
of success needs to change, deepen*





*The greatest mistake we make in failure is in looking for fault*

*Fault finding keeps us locked in the past, and the past seems to be the enemies territory*

*It is heart-stoppingly easy to get stuck in the darkness of bad memories. They are emotional quicksand and exert a strong downward pull on the psyche.*

*Judith Sills Ph.D*



**Relational** failures are the deepest and hardest to overcome. Whether we have been hurt or have hurt others, our relationship failures can hinder/cripple our future in a way that no other failure can

These failures **isolate** and **disconnect** us from God and our community



*So he left Judea and returned to Galilee. He had to go through Samaria on the way. Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. John 4:3-8*





*The woman was surprised, **for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans.** She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. **Why are you asking me for a drink?”** vs 9*



# The History

During the ministry of Jesus there was contact with a group of people known as the Samaritans. The Samaritans were **half-Jew, half-Gentile**. The race came about after the Assyrian captivity of the northern kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C. Certain people from the nation of Israel stayed behind. These people intermarried with the Assyrians producing the Samaritans.




# *The History*

*The king of Assyria transported groups of people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim and resettled them in the towns of Samaria, replacing the people of Israel. They took possession of Samaria and lived in its towns. 2 Kings 17:24*



## *The History*

*These new residents worshiped the Lord, but they also appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests to offer sacrifices at their places of worship. **And though they worshiped the Lord, they continued to follow their own gods according to the religious customs of the nations from which they came.** And this is still going on today. They continue to follow their former practices instead of truly worshiping the Lord and obeying the decrees, regulations, instructions, and commands he gave the descendants of Jacob, whose name he changed to Israel. **vs 32-34***





# The History

As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. **But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem.** When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, “**Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?**” But Jesus turned and rebuked them. **Luke 9:51-55**





# *The History*

**Josephus** reports a number of unpleasant events: Samaritans harass Jewish pilgrims traveling through Samaria between Galilee and Judea, Samaritans scatter human bones in the Jerusalem sanctuary, and Jews in turn burn down Samaritan villages.



**“Go and get your husband,”**  
Jesus told her. **John 4:16**

**“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.**  
Jesus said, **“You’re right! You don’t have a husband—for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!” vs 17-18**

**Unless Samaritan law was very different from Jewish law, and their culture likewise radically different, there is no possibility that this meant that the woman had divorced five men.**  
**Women could not initiate divorce in Judaism..**  
**James F. McGrath**

*“In John 4, all **social** taboos customarily separating males and females into separate worlds are systematically recognized, but **broken and transformed**. This upsetting of **cultural** taboos, moreover, is conscious and intentional; it constitutes an essential part of the author's communication.”*

*Jerome H. Neyrey*



## **Failure as intelligent resistance to our intended goal**

**“Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her.  
“I don’t have a husband,” the woman  
replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t  
have a husband— for you have had five  
husbands, **and you aren’t even married to  
the man you’re living with now.** You  
certainly spoke the truth!” vs 16–18**

**Six relationships later this woman is  
realizing that what Jesus was  
offering was **greater** than what she  
had been previously seeking**





# *Failure as course correction*

*“If you only knew the **gift** God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and **I would give you living water.**” John 4:10*

*She had the wisdom to see the opportunity before her*





# *Failure as a shift in our vision of success*

*Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “**He told me everything I ever did!**” vs 39*

*Success isn't finally finding that successful relationship. Success here is being accepted by God despite your past brokenness*



*“Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that **don't really matter**.” Francis Chan*

*And what do you benefit if you **gain the whole world but lose your own soul**? Is anything worth more than your soul? **Mark 8:36-37***



*The Samaritan women had her life scarred  
by her failed relationships. Rather than  
judge her, Jesus revealed His **knowledge of  
her past** and His ability to **see her future***

*Failure can blind us to the future*

*Our past failures only become a  
testimony when we invite God into them*



# The Place

Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. **Jacob's well** was there

“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him. “From now on you will be called Israel, **because you have fought with God and with men and have won.**” **Genesis 32:28**





*Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!” When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Saviour of the world.” John 4:39-42*

*From outcast to missionary*

