



REASONING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Weekly Bible Study

Don't Give In, Don't Give Up: Trust Him, And Just Try Again!

Key Verses: Lk 5:1-11

I. One Reason the Scriptures Are Believable Is Because They Expose the Failures and Weaknesses of God's Greatest Heroes

A human author might have hidden David's hideous sins of adultery and murder (2 Sa 11). The closest group of disciples of the Lord Jesus were Simon Peter, James and John. One would expect the choicest to be presented as faultless and successful at all times. However, they are the ones whose faults and failures are most pronounced.

The Lord called Peter "Satan" (Mt 16:23). The Lord rebuked James and John when they wanted heavenly fire to descend upon an inhospitable Samaritan village (Lk 9:54,55). Consider this, which of His disciples failed to heal a desperately needy boy? The very three of His inner circle, Peter, James and John. They had the most glorious experience of being with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration. They even saw Moses and Elijah, long dead. And yet they failed in the valley of human suffering (Mt 17:1-21). At the very beginning of their ministry, the three closest to Jesus experienced failure in the very job in which they were experts, fishing (Lk 5:1-11).

You would think that He would let them start with tremendous success at what they did best. But He did not. He wanted to show them right from the start that

without Him they could do nothing (Jn 15:5). The Lord permitted these same disciples, with others at the very end of His earthly life after His resurrection, to again experience failure at fishing (Jn 21:1-14). Who is singled out? Peter!

II. One might say that Failure Is Only a Prelude to Success

None of us can always succeed at what we do best. If we did we would be proud and we would be impossible to live with. *We may succeed at what we set for our own goal, but this may not be God's goal for us. If God has a different plan for us, there is one thing that He can do to cause us to change directions: cause us to fail in what we have chosen as best for our lives.*

If God's choice and ours coincide, He may permit us success, but somehow *He has a way of shattering self-confidence by permitting occasional failure.* Instead of complaining at failure we must see God's hand of direction. His choice of failure for us is His way of gaining our dependence upon His Word explicitly and unquestionably.

III. The Greatest Success Is Obedience to The One Who Knows Best.

The disciples experienced disappointment at the beginning and end of their ministries. But they ended with unimagined victory. *This victory was due to their obedience to Christ without argument.* Some battles we shall lose, but the presence of Christ guarantees victory. *Try again* by carefully listening to Him who knows best. Do not give Him an argument that it is no use trying again, Trust Him and Just Try Again!