

Week Five - *Falling Upward*

Luke 22:31-34

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Think about a time when you've been tested to your limits and you were tempted to quit at something. What helped you push through the temptation?
2. Author Simon Sinek says that one of the ways we overcome failure is by having a "just cause." What are some historical "just causes" that people have fought for?
3. Read Luke 22:31-34. What warning does Jesus give to Peter?
4. What "just cause" was Peter willing to die for?
5. Spoiler alert: Peter didn't die for Jesus that day. Jesus' prediction came true. How did Peter's failure affect his future success? (If you need help, turn to Acts 3:1-12.)
6. What about your relationship with Jesus can provide you a "just cause" that will make even failures worth overcoming?
7. Conclude your FIFTEEN in prayer by asking God to remind you what makes his cause worth everything—including overcoming our own failures.

Spend FIFTEEN – DAY TWO

8. Who do you think tends to succeed more: individuals or teams? Why?
9. Author Simon Sinek says that the "infinite game" of business, war, or life can only be won by being a part of a team you can trust. Who are people in your life that you would trust even if you failed drastically?
10. Read Luke 22:31-34. What team did Peter have around him?
11. Jesus seemed to take Peter's upcoming failure as a given. But what purpose did Jesus give to Peter for after he'd repented?
12. How would Peter's failure have affected his future ability to lead the disciples?

13. How can your own failures be used to strengthen those around you, instead of just disqualifying you from leadership?
14. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to show you how to lead from brokenness and failure, and not just competence and success.

Spend FIFTEEN – DAY THREE

15. Is comparing yourself to others helpful to your own personal growth or not? Why do you think so?
16. Look at Luke 22:24-34. What question were the disciples arguing about?
17. What comparison did Peter make to elevate himself at the end of this passage?
18. All the disciples would abandon Jesus that day, but only Peter would actively deny him. By that measure, Peter was worse than the others. Would comparison have been a helpful motivator for Peter, do you think? (For help, read Luke 22:61-62.)
19. Now read John 21:20-22. Peter was still trying to compare, but what was the only thing Jesus cared about?
20. Peter ultimately overcame his denial, to become a better follower than he had been before. What is one metric that you can track that will help you be a better follower of Jesus than you were the day before?
21. Conclude your FIFTEEN by praying for God's Holy Spirit to help you follow Jesus more closely.

Spend FIFTEEN – DAY FOUR

22. What trait separates courageous people from ordinary humans?
23. Read John 18:10-11. What courageous act did Peter commit?
24. What was Jesus' opinion of Peter's violence?
25. Read Luke 22:31-34. What did Jesus pray wouldn't fail for Peter?

26. How does faith help people to courageously overcome failures?
27. What failure in your own life would you like to overcome with faith?
28. Submit that failure to God. Then conclude your FIFTEEN by praying like Jesus, so that your faith will remain strong enough to overcome any earthly failing.

Spend FIFTEEN – DAY FIVE

29. What is it that truly defines you? What are your personal markers of success or identity? Is it relationships? Achievements? Reputation?
30. Read Luke 22:31-34. What about himself did Peter put stock in?
31. If you were to lose the things that made up your identity, your success, how do you think you would respond?
32. Now look at John 21:1-3. After his failure as a disciple, what identity did Peter return to?
33. Read John 21:15-19. What new identity did Jesus give to Peter after his failure?
34. What identity from God would transcend the worst failure that you could have? The loss of career, family, health, or reputation?
35. As you finish your final FIFTEEN this week, ask God to “lock you in” to the names he has given you: identities that cannot be “failed” because they rely on God’s actions and not your own.