



“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

My eyes focused and clear, so that I can see exactly what it is he
is calling me to do... Eph. 1:18 MSG

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MATTHEW 15:21-28

TITLE: IN IT TO WIN OR IN IT TO NOT LOSE?

INTRODUCTION

- A. *“The kingdom is forcefully advancing, pressing its way into the world, and believers are forcefully taking hold of the kingdom to make it their own”* (Matthew 11:12) _____
1. The Your Kingdom Come (on earth as it is in heaven). Our goal should be to **Apply Kingdom Principles and Practices to Earthly Living**
 2. Your Will Be Done (on earth as it is in heaven). Our goal should be to **Apply God’s Purposes and Plans to Earthly Decisions**
- B. However, If I am so fearful of Failing, I will not forcefully take hold of the kingdom to make it my own _____
- C. The Fear of Failing is generally based upon having previously failed _____
- D. **Youth: There is a difference between Failing and Being a Failure** _____
- E. Has anyone ever failed? _____
1. There is a close association between Trying and Failing. When you try, you will fail
 2. “Anyone who has never failed, has never done anything”
 3. “That is why they put erasers on pencils”

PERSISTING AFTER FAILING SAYS, “I WILL NOT PLAY IT SAFE”

- A. Jesus’ encounter with the woman _____

The 1st time she Failed

1. The woman cried out to Jesus (Mark said she kept asking)
2. Jesus did not answer her a word
3. **Failed**

The 2nd time she Failed

1. The disciples said, “Send her away”
2. The disciples said, “For she cries out after us” (Cries = the cry of a raven)
3. **Failed**

The 3rd time she Failed

1. Jesus responded, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”
2. She was a Canaanite; an outsider; Jesus was not sent, at this point, for her
3. **Failed**

The 4th time she Failed

1. The woman bowed down and worshipped Jesus saying, “Lord, help me”
2. Jesus replied, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs”
3. **Failed**

- B. The Fear of Failing is Playing it Safe _____
- C. The reality is: I may fail; I may not fail _____
- D. “I will not play it safe” _____

REMAIN PERSISTENT IN YOUR FAITH TO CONTINUE AFTER FAILING

- A. At the persistent faith of the woman to continue asking after failing, Jesus adjusted His agenda _____
1. The woman failed four times before Jesus delivered her daughter
 2. “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire”

3. She received hers early...

B. As we remain persistent in our faith to continue after failing, Jesus will adjust His agenda _____

1. The number of times that you fail is not important

2. Just persist one more time over the number of failures – “*Think I*”

3. Focus on your Faith – You will receive yours early...

C. My failures do not define me nor describe me. Rather, they develop me _____