

⁹ The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps. **Proverbs 16:9**

⁴ Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. ⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all day long. **Psalms 25:4, 5**

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MATTHEW 15:21-28

TITLE: I WILL NOT PLAY IT SAFE. I WILL TAKE THE RISK

INTRODUCTION

- A. In it to win and in it to not lose is the same thing _____
- B. In it to not lose... Thinking: "I do not want to lose." Motivation: The Fear of Losing
- C. In it to win... Thinking: "I will win. This is mine." Motivation: Confidence of Winning
- D.
- | <u>IN IT TO NOT LOSE</u> | <u>IN IT TO WIN</u> |
|--|--|
| You engage Passively | You engage Aggressively |
| You are Playing it Safe | You are Taking Risks / the Lead / Control |
| There is Always a "But" | There is Always and "And" |
| It Protects you from Potential Failure | It Propels you to Possibilities of Success |
| You are Driven by Fear of Failing | You are Driven by Faith for Succeeding |
- E. The Fear of Failing is generally based upon having previously failed _____
- F. 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"
 4. African Proverb: "Do not look at where you fell. Look at where you tripped."
 5. There is a difference between Failing and Being a Failure

"WHAT WILL I DO AFTER I FAIL?" "I WILL NOT PLAY IT SAFE" "I WILL TAKE THE RISK"

- A. Jesus' encounter with the woman _____
- The 1st time she Failed**
1. The woman cried out to Jesus (Mark said she kept asking). Jesus did not answer her a word
 2. Failed
- The 2nd time she Failed**
1. The disciples said, "Send her away" "For she cries out after us" (Cries = the cry of a raven)
 2. Failed
- The 3rd time she Failed**
1. Jesus responded, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"
 2. 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. "I will not play it safe" "I will take the risk" _____

THE BLESSING OF NOT PLAYING IT SAFE AND TAKING THE RISK

- A. Because the woman did not play it safe and took the risk, Jesus adjusted His agenda _____
1. After four failures, Jesus delivered her daughter, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire"
 2. Not playing it safe and taking the risk is an expression of faith

- B. As we do not play it safe and take the risk, 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
 3. My failures do not define me nor describe me. Rather, they develop me