



Title: let the mighty arise I – overcoming the valley of failure
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The outline:

Luke 3:2 ... the word of God came to John... and he went...

Luke 3:4-6 ⁴ ... “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

Perception change: *the valley of failure is a graveyard for many, but the birthplace of the mighty.*

Failure speaks loudly

Valley of failure – speaks loudly!

(1) ***It says:** “**you are the problem.**” Failure is an identity issue. “*You didn’t fail, you are a failure.*”

Our response: *if at first you don’t succeed, destroy all evidence that you’ve tried.*”

Failure – *we hide it, deny it, fear it, ignore it and hate it.*

(2) **It changes our perspective**

(3) **It says:** God isn’t with you.”

(4) **Graveyard:** many a man and woman have made their grave in the valley of failure.

How do we break out of the valley of failure?

Luke 5:4 (NKJV) ⁴ When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

Luke 5:5 (NKJV) ⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”

Luke 5:6 (NKJV) ⁶ And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

Luke 5:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;

Failure speaks loudly to us, but the word of God speaks even louder:

Why the word of God? God is an objective source of truth.

Perception change:

(1) Failure, our best friend + teacher

(2) Failure, is simply practice for success

“When we give ourselves permission to fail, we at the same time give ourselves permission to excel.”

Why does God's word speak louder?

(1) Gives us perspective

(2) Gives us hope

"We are pastors who refused to recant our belief in Jesus and were held in solitary confinement, with total silence, unable to speak or sing aloud. Later I found out that those who did not know scripture or sing hymns, either recanted and denounced Christ or committed suicide. I know of no exceptions. It was the word of God that kept us from doing any of the three."

(3) Turns failure into a success

"He shall rise": Jesus dying on the cross is the ultimate failure. Yet God turned it around into the ultimate victory of all time. **The word said:** after three days He will rise. He did.

Luke 4:4 (NKJV) ⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'*"

Psalms 119:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word.