

SECOND CHANCE, SECOND ACT

TURNING YOUR MESSES INTO SUCCESSES

DON'T MESS UP FOR FREE

Selected Scriptures

February 14, 2016 | DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS



INTRODUCTION: Last time we discussed the first principle for experiencing your “second act” after failure: ‘Fess Up To Your Mess Up. Today we will discover the second principle for recovering from failure: Don’t Mess Up For Free. Failure is very painful but it can also be profitable.

I. A Different Perspective Of Failure

A. The Definition of “Reproof”

Reproofs describe the **lessons** that **failure** provides.

B. Two Different Responses to Reproofs

The wise person **learns** from reproofs while the foolish person **ignores** reproofs.

Proverbs 10:17 “He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, but he who forsakes reproof goes astray.”

Proverbs 12:1 “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.”

Proverbs 13:18 “Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, but he who regards reproof will be honored.”

Proverbs 15:10 “Stern discipline is for him who forsakes the way; he who hates reproof will die.”

Proverbs 29:1 “A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.”

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II. How To Profit From Your First-Act Failures

A. Properly Assess Your Failure

1. Permanent or Temporary

2. Universal or Specific

3. Internal or External

B. Learn On Someone Else's Nickel

Proverbs 24:30-31 “³⁰I passed by the field of a sluggard, and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense; ³¹And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles, its surface was covered with nettles, And its stone wall was broken down.”

Proverbs 24:32-24 “³²When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, and received instruction. ³³‘A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,’ ³⁴Then your poverty will come as a robber, and your want like an armed man.”

C. Instead Of Churning Over Failure, Start Learning From Your Failure

Proverbs 13:18 “Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, but he who regards reproof will be honored.”

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1. Questions to Ask Others

- Why do you think I **failed**?
- What wrong **attitudes** or **assumptions** do you think led to my failure?
- If you were I, what would you have done to **avoid** this mistake?
- **Who** could provide me wise counsel to help me recover from this failure?

Proverbs 12:15 “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.”

2. Questions to Ask Yourself

- Have I really failed or just fallen short of an **unrealistic** goal?
- Is my failure primarily the **result** of other people, adverse circumstances, or my own wrong choices?
- Whom do I know who has made the **same** mistake and recovered from it?
- What positive **lessons** have I already learned from this failure?
- Has my relationship with God been a **priority** in my life?

3. Questions to Ask God

- Am I doing something in my life that **displeases** You?
- What **changes** could I make in my life that would please You the most?
- Am I more concerned with Your **approval** or the approval of other people?
- Do my **standards** of success coincide with Your standard of success?

James 1:5 “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

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D. Use Your “Advance Warning System” To Avoid Failure

Proverbs 10:13 “On the lips of the discerning, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks understanding.”

Proverbs 13:14 “The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn aside from the snares of death.”

Conclusion