St John Church of Christ February 7, 2021

Worship Service

> Premiers Sunday at 11:00

We're BACK!

Today, we resume meeting in our beautiful building! We are so glad you are here with us! Yes, we are continuing to wear masks and practice social distancing, but isn't it good to be together again?

We are also broadcasting our services live over the internet for those who can't risk getting out yet, so sing loud!

Our Adult Bible Class is still being shared online at 10:30. Just visit

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

and select "Sermons" from the menubar at the top, or click this link to visit our page on YouTube:

St. John Church of Christ



Failure isn't Final

nce Jesus told a story about a rich man who took a journey to a far away land. Before he left, the rich man entrusted his money to three men. To one man he gave five bags of gold. To another, he gave two bags of gold and to the third man, he gave a single bag of gold. It was more money than the poor man had ever seen before. Can you imagine him holding the bag? Looking inside? Weighing and worrying about so much money? Worse, the wealthy man expected his three servants to put the money to work. The first two did so and reaped enormous profits. They doubled his wealth. Five became ten and two became four, but the man with a single bag of gold was so frightened, he buried the money and waited for the rich man to return. Let's listen to the conversation:

"Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money



with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth," (Matthew 25:24 - 30).

I've often wondered what the Master would have said if the fearful man would have tried and failed? "Master I did my best, but I failed."

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Have you ever considered the virtues of failure? Failure should be a learning experience. I've been told Edison burned up over 6,000 filaments as he was trying to invent a practical light bulb. When asked about his failures, he objected strongly. "We haven't failed! We've just learned another material isn't suitable."

There is a true story about a project manager at IBM who lost the company 10 million dollars. Dejectedly, he walked into the president's office and said, "I'm sorry. I'm sure you'll want my resignation. I'll be gone by the end of the day."

president's response The showed his understanding of the value of failure. He said, "Are you kidding? We've just invested 10 million dollars in your education. We're not about to let you go. Now get back to work."

Consider what these great men have said about failure:

Admiral Hyman G. Rickover said, "Success teaches us nothing; only failure teaches."

Thomas Watson, the founder of IBM, promised, "Success is on the far side of failure." He also observed, "If you want to double your success rate, double your failure rate."

Winston Churchill said. "Success is never final. Failure is never final. It is courage that counts."

F. D. Mattiesen observed, "Failure is the true test of greatness."

So, while we don't know for sure what the Master would have said to the one talent man if he would have tried and failed. I suspect this adage would have applied: "A friend is someone who, when you fail, doesn't think it's a permanent condition."

Alan Loy McGinnis, in his book, Bringing Out the Best in People, wrote: "Strong people make as many and as ghastly mistakes as weak people. The difference is that strong people admit them, laugh at them, learn from them. That is how they become strong."

Finally, Emilie Griffin believes, "The Lord loves us – perhaps most of all – when we fail and try again."



Chrissy, Marla and Chet's sonin-law's mother, has just been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. It is in her bones and there is a spot at the bottom of her lung. She broke her hip recently, so they are not able to do more extensive tests until she completes rehab. This sad news has effected the whole family, and they are asking for our prayers.

Please continue to pray for John's friend Paul and his wife Bernice, as Paul battles cancer in Washington state.

Brenda and Kim Staub werelongtime members here before moving to work at a Christian boys' school/camp. Brenda can no longer care for Kim and together they decided to admit him into a care facility.

Let's continue to pray for Curtis in Pratt as he wrestles with cancer.

Don't forget to pray for little Emersyn, the daughter of Billy and Brianna Milton of Hudson.



A Place for Pictures



