

Miscellaneous

Have You Ever Felt Like a Failure?

February 5, 2012

Text - Romans 8:1-4

Scripture Reading - Romans 8:1-4

Have you ever felt like a complete failure in life?

I think Christians are especially prone to feeling like failures because they know themselves and they know God's standard.

- **1 John 2:6 (ESV)**

⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

- **1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)**

¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

- **Matthew 5:48 (NIV)**

⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

I was feeling like a serious failure this past Tuesday. The crazy thing is, that just two days earlier I had been feeling really good about myself ☺.

- Church
- Quiet time
- Family
 - Bible time, teaching math, basketball, dates, Father Daughter Ball
- In shape
- Self control in eating
- Pastor's conference
- But by early Tuesday morning everything had changed.

God has always been faithful to humble me throughout my lifetime, but especially since becoming a Christian.

- **2 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)**

⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

Let me walk you through my two day humbling process.

- After church
 - Sermon too long
 - Cancellation
- Preconference
 - Plateaus = Failure of shepherding
 - They have to KNOW they're #1
 - The van - Jess hustling to get ready for appointment
- Bookstore
 - Kids in a candy store
 - Questions
 - Greek
 - Seminary
- First Session
 - Worship
- Pool
 - Exercise
 - 1500
- Bed
 - Deacons
 - Up all night studying and praying
 - Kneeling
- Morning
 - Bible reading
 - Breakfast no help on deacons
- Early bird
 - Critical importance of teaching manhood and womanhood
 - Speaker no help on deacons

God knew I wasn't the only one feeling like a failure.

- Jesus Paid It All!

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
Jesus died my soul to save,
My lips shall still repeat.

- **Romans 8:1-4 (ESV)**

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

More weight / Less burden

- **Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)**

²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Two more truths that further lightened my load

- "I have never had all I needed to do what God is calling me to do."

- o Repent - of wallowing in our self pity
- o Yield - and admit that we can't do it on our own
- o Believe - that with God we can

- Just as sin takes long time to grow, so too does spiritual fruit
 - o You don't become an angry bitter person overnight
 - o You don't become a Godly, fruitful Christian overnight either
 - o Becoming more like Jesus is a process. We need to spend less time beating ourselves up and more time *celebrating our progress*.
 - Ex. My response to Jess' surgery