

## Learning Through Failure & Loss

Q: *How does God work through our failures to produce something beautiful and good?"*



**READ:** Luke 22:31-34, 54-61

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.

<sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

<sup>33</sup> But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me." (Luke 22:31-34)

...<sup>54</sup> Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup> And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. <sup>56</sup> A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

<sup>57</sup> But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

<sup>58</sup> A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

<sup>59</sup> About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

<sup>60</sup> Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.

<sup>61</sup> The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." <sup>62</sup> And he went outside and wept bitterly. (Luke 22:54-61)

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*Failure is a school in which the truth always grows strong.*

Henry Ward Beecher

## **REFLECT:** What can we learn about God through our failures and losses?

"Sifted" (Gk: σιναίζω) = The process of removing the coarse particles from finer ones. Figuratively by inward agitation to try one's faith to the verge of overthrow.

**Satan's sifting goal:** Through his sifting process and tests, was planning on separating the ones who remain faithful to the ones who succumb and deny their faith.

**God's sifting goal:** The painful process through which every child of God has or will face trials that result in being broken and refined, strengthened and restored, and grown and empowered for God's glory and Kingdom expansion.



Sifting uses trouble as a catalyst to transform our hearts, refine our character and draw us closer to God.

**God will allow you to go through great pain and failure so that you might...**

*"God must first accomplish something in you before he can accomplish something through you."*

Wayne Cordeiro, Sifted: Pursuing Growth through Trials, Challenges, and Disappointments

**Key Question:** How have your failures, losses, and troubles caused you to depend on God more (or move away from Him?)

**RESPOND: Where do you see God using your failures and losses for His purposes?**

Note what Jesus said to Peter in John 21:15-19...

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?"

He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

<sup>8</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

<sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

Q: Where has God used your failures and losses for His glory?



*"I have a word for you. I know your whole life story.  
I know every skeleton in your closet. I know every moment of sin, shame,  
dishonesty and degraded love that has darkened your past.*

*Right now I know your shallow faith,  
your feeble prayer life,  
your inconsistent discipleship.*

*And my word is this: I dare you to trust that I love you just as you are,  
and not as you should be.*

*Because you're never going to be as you should be."*

Brennan Manning

**Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide**

Peter was challenged by Jesus in this way...

"Peter, do you love me?" Then He said, "Feed and tend to my sheep".

What is God asking of you at this time?

Peter learned this as a result of his failures, trials, and troubles...

"Be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world." 1 Peter 1:6-7

What has God been teaching you at this time?

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*Are you interested becoming a Mission Partner at NewDay?*

**Mission Partner Orientation**

Today, Sunday, May 7 at 11 am -12:30 pm  
at the Isaak Walton Cabin  
(lunch will be provided!)

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**Next Week: *Learning Through Losses***

Matthew 16:13-24, Luke 22:31-34,59-61;, John 21:15-19

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*NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values*

- 1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- 2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships With God and others.**
- 3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- 4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

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(Online giving: <http://www.newdaycov.org/give>)