

BACKED INTO A CORNER?

Matthew 25:25-29 • September 12, 2021

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INTRODUCTION:

- A. Our "fear of failure" can back us up into a corner in life.
- B. ***"But the servant who had been given just one talent said, 'I was afraid I'd lose it so I hid [buried] the talent you gave me'... But, you did nothing with what I gave you so I'm taking [it] back...To those who use well what I give them, they will be given even more!"***
— Matthew 25:25-29

I. WHAT WE NEED TO REMEMBER

- A. First, remember "to err is human." We all fail in many ways.
We all stumble in many ways. — James 3:2a
There is no one on earth who always does what is right all the time and never makes a mistake. — Ecclesiastes 7:20
- B. Remember to learn from failures. We can learn something good from a bad circumstance or relationship if we will humbly embrace it.
Pride leads to disgrace but with humility comes wisdom. — Proverbs 11:2
- C. Remember, no matter what happens, God promises to use everything for good.
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who've been called according to His purpose. — Romans 8:28

II. STARING DOWN OUR FEAR OF FAILURE

- A. Refuse to compare with others.
You should judge your own actions but never compare yourself with others. Then you can be satisfied with doing your best! — Galatians 6:4
- B. Redefine the meaning of failure:
- Failure is not missing the goal or being unable to do something.
 - That is what "hidiers do."
 - Real failure is not having a goal or being unwilling to try.
 - This is what the faithful do.
"According to your faith it will be done to you." — Matthew 9:29
- C. Replace your fear with faith in Jesus.
"Fear not, for I am with you! Be not dismayed, for I am your God! I will strengthen you, and I will help you, and I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." — Isaiah 41:10
- It will take some refocusing on God's love for you.
"Wherever God's love is, there is no fear, because God's perfect love drives out all fear." — John 4:18

CONCLUSION