

Wednesday with the Word

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What Do You Do When Success Looks Like Failure?



The Cross and Resurrection Connection

The cross doesn't look victorious.

Betrayal doesn't look victorious.

The last supper isn't a celebration.

It is a somber moment when all around feel as though they have lost the battle. The only one at the table who I think really believes he has won is Jesus.

How would you deal with it if you were doing something everybody in your inner circle thought was crazy or wrong?

How would you respond?

How should you respond?

How would you know you were doing the right thing?

Matthew 26:14-31

14Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests **15**and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. **16**From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

The Lord's Supper

17On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

18He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.' " **19**So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

20When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve.

21And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

22They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely not I, Lord?"

23Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. **24**The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

25Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."

26While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **28**This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29**I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

30When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. **31**Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written:

" 'I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' "

How did Jesus respond?

Was Jesus as convinced?

When success looks like failure are we sure we are doing the right thing?

It is never crystal clear?

We don't have road maps; just next stops!

Matthew 26:36-46

36Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." **37**He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. **38**Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

39Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

40Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. **41**"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

42He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

43When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. **44**So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

45Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **46** Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

*Jesus Betrayed in the Garden – Matthew 26:47-56

*Jesus in Court – Matthew 26:57-68

*Jesus in Front of Pilate – Matthew 27:11-26

Does this look like success?
Matthew 27:27-43

27Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. **28**They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, **29**and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. **30**They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. **31**After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion

32As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. **33**They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). **34**There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. **35**When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. **36**And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. **37**Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. **38**Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. **39**Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads **40**and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

41In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. **42**"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. **43**He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.' " **44**In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

What is your cross as it relates to your call?

How are you handling your cross?

What does resurrection or glorification look like for you?

What does success:
Look like?

Feel like?

Taste like?

What does your success cost?

Are you willing to pay the price?

Are you making installments?

What does an installment look like?

How do you know you are going in the right direction?

What are the signs that you are being successful?

Are you on the right path?

If you are on the wrong path are you willing to change paths or direction?

How will you know when you have arrived at your next stop?

This is what resurrection looks like!

Matthew 28:1-10

1After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3**His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. **4**The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **6**He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. **7**Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. **9**Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. **10**Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

When will you know you are resurrected?

Is your cross a part of your plan?

How do you respond to the crosses in your life?

Always remember there is a difference between a cross and a crop!