

HOW WE FAIL IN OUR MISSION

While the world dies and goes to hell around us, men in the ministry continue to fail God. Turn on “Christian” television. You will find a mockery of whoremongers and money - mongers claiming to “be on mission for God”. Conventions and Fellowships abound in apostasy in this Laodician age of the church. Never before in the history of this nation have so many men failed God, and brought disgrace upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hell must be pleased with our efforts.

Why do we fail? Man is trying to please the world. Paul warns of “Another Gospel”, this “Man pleasing gospel” in Galatians:

Ga 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

All across America, our churches are being filled with worldly ideas by worldly preachers. How can a man stand and say he'll never fail God, and at that very moment be “preaching another gospel”?

Luke Chapter 22 holds the answer. Lets look at the life of Peter. Peter is the big mouth of the group. The “man’s man” if you will. He’s bold, outspoken, and strong, and a failure. Did he start out right? Oh yes! Why did he stumble? He tried to stay back. He followed from a distance:

Lu 22:54 Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

Life on the battlefield is tough. Going door to door, or preaching on the street is “not the norm”, but it keeps you close to the battle, and alert. Man falls when he tries to follow God from afar. Remember, this is the bold one that says, “Jesus, I’ll go with you to prison, and even to death”, but just a few hours later, we find him strolling along, far from the action. He was following from afar.

What happened. The same thing that happens to many preachers. Peter thought too highly of himself. He thought, “Man, I am Peter, the Rock, I will not fail”. I think in America today, we must warn our own heats about this problem of pride. We must not become arrogant, for all that we have or ever will have is only by the grace of God.

Many “Big Church” preachers think they will never fail, but when is the last time you saw the “First Baptist Church of your town” pastor preaching on the street corner and walking the neighborhood banging on doors for hours? When do they come out from behind the desk?

My heart sinks as I see these great men of God fall by the wayside, become proud, and miss the call to preach!

Preaching is not about building a big church, it is about preaching! (See the previous chapters for what preaching the gospel is) Friend, it is not about how big the buildings are, how big the budgets are, how great the Sunday school numbers are, how many pat us on the back, it is about preaching the fact that at

best, we are sinners saved by grace. If you are a pastor, Thank God that he's called us to serve him, thank God He is using us, for all we are is sinners saved by Grace. Now, get out from behind your desk and be about MY FATHER'S BUSINESS.

Let us look further in the Bible to find what caused Peter's dilemma.

Lu 22:55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

Did you notice something when reading that verse. He is no longer with the disciples, and no longer with that "radical" group. He is sitting around with those of the high priests house, the religiously lost. Peter had no business being among them. The Bible says we are a separated people unto God. "***Come out and be ye a separate people***". We, as Christians, are supposed to be distinct, and there are some people we have no business doing business with.

As Peter heard them ridicule Christ, and curse Christ, his boldness left him and he denies the Lord Jesus Christ, and ends up a cursing shame. As pastors across this nation gather for their meetings, have their conventions, and swap worldly ideas to get people in the church, the world dies and goes to hell. Quit hanging out with that religious crowd and take the gospel to the streets. Remember where the ministry is? Jesus reminds us:

Mt 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Mr 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Lu 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

We hope this book will point you to the Bible's warnings about failing God. But, if you are like Peter, you won't heed them until the damage is done.

Lu 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

Jesus told Peter Satan's greatest desire was to sift him like wheat, and make his ministry not count. Get that. Satan's greatest is to have your soul. If you are saved, his greatest desire then becomes to render your ministry useless, powerless, and sift you like wheat. If he can get you to follow back away from the action, if he can get you to go along with your religious crowd, he can get you to fall.

Listen, you need to forget what people think of street preaching and door to door ministry and just get about it. Romans 14:12 tells us we all will give a personal account before God,

Ro 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Every thought you had, every action you take, you will give account, Dr. Lee would say, there is a payday someday. Daryl Covington will give an account. Mark Lawless will give an account, and YOU will give an account. What matters more to you: what men say now, or what God will say then? Don't worry about man. Don't be a man pleasing preacher who is guilty of preaching another gospel. Be "ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS".

Peter forgot about that accountability, about the fact God sees all.

Lu 22:56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.

59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean.

60 And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

As he denied the Lord, he saw the eyes of Jesus fixed on him. How does Jesus see you friend? Are those eyes full of excitement and joy, or hurt and disappointment. The most awful thing to happen to a saint of God would be to one day stand before Jesus, the one who saved you by his blood, who has redeemed you, who told you to preach the gospel, to look at you with the same eyes he saw Peter with.