

[ARM Prison Outreach International](#)

"Ministers' Minute" Volume V Number 10

DOWN -- BUT NOT OUT! -- 2 Corin. 7:5-9

Editor's Note: This "MM" is an email sermon, the 10th of 2006 --69th overall-- in a series we are sending as an encouragement to preachers and Christian workers around the world. This message was first sent by me in July of 2002. Hundreds of subscribers have joined out list since then. It is my prayer that this message will encourage you and honor God. Use it as a devotional, edit it, share it, use it or components of it! May God bless your labors! -- Rod Farthing, Development Director

[ARM QUICK FACT:](#)

ARM's Branch Ministry in Thailand

ARM's Branch Minister in Thailand is Boonlerd Chompukeeree

Daughters of Ruth: Things are going well as Boonlerd and family work with the girls. At last report, there were **SIX** girls in the new home -- more may be inducted any day now. We only have room for 13 in the rented facility. We will need our home (like Rapha House) soon. This is a fast growing ministry! We have raised about the target goal of \$25,000 for the land. We have an anonymous donor who will match the \$25,000 to bring us to the \$50,000 we need to purchase the land next to the Bible College in Chiang Mai. Bro. Garman hopes to move the purchase process forward when he is in Thailand in October.

Donations may be sent to [ARM -Thailand, Rt. 5 Box 159, Salem, MO 65560](#)

[DOWN -- BUT NOT OUT!](#)

OPEN: This guy has been fired by some pretty good teams. The New York Mets canned him in 1981. The Atlanta Braves gave him the boot in 1984. The St. Louis Cardinals terminated him in 1995. (As a Cards' fan, I'm still a little disappointed in that fact.)

His personal life hasn't always been easy either. He grew up in a home where he experienced verbal abuse from his father and in which his mother had to endure physical abuse. In Joe's words, his father "often terrorized our home with his out-of-control rages. He wielded his anger as a terrible weapon." Maybe these same adversities help account for the fact that he is what sports writers call a "player's manager." While the term is sometimes negative and points to a soft manager who can't really command enough respect to lead his players, it connotes something quite different in his case. Essentially, it means that he has committed himself to respecting his players, never humiliating them before fans or one another, and refraining from clubhouse tantrums.

Yes, Joe Torre's Yankees won the 2000 World Series -- New York's first subway series since 1956. It's something of a miracle that he's still in baseball, much less completing his fourth title

in five years as leader of the New York Yankees.

He admits to having a hard time with coaches or managers who use threats and screaming outbursts to intimidate players. All the yelling and threats in his early home life created an aversion to that sort of behavior. "I developed the strong moral sense that people should be civil to each other at home and in the workplace," he writes in the book *Joe Torre's Ground Rules for Winners*.

When things weren't going well for his team in 2000 -- like when they lost 13 of 16 games at the end of the season -- the Yankees were being written off by lots of people as league champs and World Series contenders. Torre didn't panic. He didn't attack his players for lackluster performances. He said he trusted them to give their best and would deal with the outcome.

The childhood trauma in his family, being fired three times, having his competence challenged in the press, a battle with prostate cancer -- all these seem to have combined to teach one of baseball's most successful managers something you could wish everyone knew: Winning is important, but it is even more critical to preserve one's integrity by treating others with respect.

Everyone has "stuff" in his or her background. It doesn't have to make us bitter -- we can rise above it all with God's help.

ARM QUICK FACT:

ARM donated 82 Baptistries in 2005!

***In the last 33 years, ARM has donated 1,240 baptistries to prisons!
In addition, hundreds have been shipped to military bases and mission fields!***

HERE IS THE POINT: We control our response to circumstances, even circumstances that are against us! It is your Attitude, not your aptitude that determines your altitude! Your thinking, your faith, those are the factors that outweigh circumstances and adversity!

2 Cor 7:5 For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn-- conflicts on the outside, fears within.

6 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,

7 and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

8 Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it-- I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while--

9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance.

For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. (NIV)

Life is characterized by choices. We all face adversity. We've all had disadvantages. When we make our choices, some choices will be good; some choices will be poor. You will fail but you are not a failure because of this.

Thomas A. Edison recorded 1,093 patents. Most of these inventions were impractical or unmarketable. They were failures. But a man who invented the phonograph, the mimeograph, and the electric light

bulb could afford a lot of failures. He was so inept in business matters that he lost control of the profitable companies that he founded, and yet in the depths of the depression, he is said to have died with an estate of \$2,000,000. Edison was a successful failure. It is obvious that you learn as you fail. You also grow as you fail, but you must dare to try, and when you fail, don't conclude you are a failure, but TURN TO GOD!

Proposition: Real people experience failures but don't have to be defeated by them.

Let us look at two men of God and how they responded to failure. As we review a portion of their lives we will discover the proper response to failure.

I. The Godly Sorrow of Peter

First, let's look at how He Went from the Heights to the Depths in SEVEN verses!

Matthew 16:16-23

We go from the The Good Confession - Godly insight - 16:16,17 - to the The Bad Obsession - Satanic influence - 16:21,22

The Encouraging news is this: Peter's Successful Response to Failure 3 R's Let's track it in from the triple denial....

1. Remorse

Matt 26:75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. (NIV)

2. Recommitment

John 21:15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

17 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."

18 I tell you the truth, 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."

19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" (NIV)

3. Redemptive Living

Peter came back to stand courageously for Christ! The Day of Pentecost and the persecution that followed:

Acts 4:7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what

name did you do this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!

9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed,

10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

11 He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone."

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

15 So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.

16 "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it.

17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.

20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. (NIV)

II. The Worldly Sorrow example of Judas

Matt 27:1 Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death.

2 They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

3 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders.

4 "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

6 The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money."

7 So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners.

8 That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

9 Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel,

10 and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me." (NIV)

Judas' Response To Failure

1. Remorse - Matthew 27:3a

2. Restitution - Matthew 27:3b,4

3. Suicide - Matthew 27:5; Acts 1:18

III. Paul's Contrast of "Godly" and "Worldly" sorrow Illustrated By Peter and Judas

"For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death." 2 Corinthians 7:10

1. Sorrow is not repentance but CAN and SHOULD lead to it.

2. Remorse is good, but only fruitful if it leads to repentance.

3. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of conduct

Conclusion:

We will all have weak moments in our walk with Jesus. We will all fail Christ sometime in our lifetime. He will always attempt to call us back to Him. We can come back! God desires all to come to repentance. What can we do? Turn away from sin and back to God!

I Jn 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (NIV)

What does God do? Forgives and forgets - 1 John 1:9b. When we feel that we have failed and we may think that we have gone beyond the point of no return, God calls us to confess our sins (acknowledge our sin and need for Him). If we are born again, blood bought, baptized believers, He promises to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all our unrighteousness. Key word: ALL. We are never failures because we have failed but are failures if we quit rather than face another failure. The crowing of the rooster lets us know that we have failed but does not indicate that we are failures. We are only failures when we fail to see our stumbling as a wake up call and do nothing about it or think that we are beyond hope.

CLOSE: When he was 10 years old he was kicked in the head by a horse and experts now believe that the skull was severely fractured, leaving him with lifelong problems. He failed in business in 1831, was defeated for the legislature in 1832. The next year he suffered another business defeat and in 1836 had a nervous breakdown. He failed to be elected speaker in 1838, was defeated for elector in 1840, and for Congress in 1843, as well as in 1848. He failed to be elected to the Senate in 1855, and was defeated for the Vice Presidency in 1856 and for the Senate in 1858. He was a man seemingly marked for failure, a man suffering from melancholy, who endured long periods of depression throughout his life. He could barely see out of one eye. He had frequent nervous attacks, severe headaches, indigestion and nausea. He had a couch placed near his desk in the White House so he could quickly lie down when one of his spells came over him. When he came to deliver the now famous address at Gettysburg, he was coming down with smallpox. However, being elected President in 1860, he could afford all those failures. Abraham Lincoln was truly a successful failure.

HOW ABOUT YOU? READY TO GIVE UP?

BE LIKE PETER, TURN BACK TO CHRIST AND FIND THE GRACE AND MERCY MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO ERASE YOUR MISTAKES AND PUT YOU BACK ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW ROAD TO SUCCESS!

"Remain faithful unto death .." Rev. 2:10B

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In 2005, an ABA Bible course was mailed from ARM to a prisoner EVERY 11.3 minutes!