



## **“Failure Is Not Fatal”**

Joshua 9:1-27

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### **Everyone of us Can Learn From Joshua’s Example By:**

- **Seeing That His Mistake Was Made When He Did Not Consult God**
  - **Joshua 9:14-15**
  - **Ex:** Man finding out what Judas did
  - As stubborn creatures we tend to automatically assume that we know what is best, even when we can’t see all the details.
  - Did you notice how God let the mistake happen? He did that because he knows that we learn best from experience.
  - **Ex:** JoAnn and the lamp.
- **Seeing that Joshua kept his integrity intact even though he just messed up.**
  - **Joshua 9:18c-21 & 25-26.**
  - Joshua was straight up lied to and he still kept his word.

- We live in a culture where a good number of people are allowed to skate by consequences and lay blame on other people.
- **Ex:** Anyone remember the McDonald's hot coffee lawsuit?
- When you fail it is vital that you own up to your mistakes and accept full responsibility for what happened. God is able to work in your shortcomings and produce a man of character and a woman of wisdom.
- **Ex:** Me failing my firefighter's test.
- We've got to keep our integrity intact when we fail, even when it is not easy. Even when you know you will lose because God is the ultimate judge, not your peers, not your checkbook.
- If you do not have your integrity at the end of your life what do you really have???
- **Seeing that failure is not fatal**
  - God did not discard Joshua when he failed and say "you're through. I can't trust you with anything, you're fired!" He gave Joshua a chance to learn from his mistakes.
  - We must grow to see that failure is not the end but more of a wake up call that can be used for the good.
  - I know that there are some of you who struggle with the fear of failure and to this day become apprehensive when it comes to decision time. God wants you to live a life that is free from this fear of failing.
  - We must remember that God does not call the qualified, but that he qualifies the called. We haven't arrived yet and it is vital that we press through our mistakes and learn the lesson found within the oops.

- Oprah has said that failure is a door closing. I don't buy into that totally. I think sometimes God can use failure to wake us up and get us back on our knees prayer.
- If Oprah was right that would mean that when your marriage is failing that you see that as a closed door. When your parenting is failing that you see that as a closed door. When your school is failing you see that as a closed door. I believe that any situation can be turned around. Not because of our awesome abilities, but because of the God we serve.
- Failure was not fatal to Joshua because he went on to lead the Israelites in a victorious campaign.
- After Josh's mistake:
  - God made the sun stand still. 10:13b:14
  - Joshua 86'd five kings. 10:16-28
  - Conquered the Southern Cities. 10:29-43
  - Defeated the Northern Kings. 11:1ff
  - The total number of Kings defeated under Joshua's leadership after his mistake was 31!!!
- After looking at Joshua's example it is quite obvious that failure is not fatal.

**Closing Thoughts:** We can all learn from Joshua's example by seeing that his mistake was made when he didn't check with God, by seeing that he kept his integrity intact after his mistake, and that failure is not fatal.