

Possessing the Promises of the Kingdom

Learning From Our Mistakes

Pastor William D. Tyree, III

August 23, 2009

Joshua 8:1-29

Personal defeat in the life of a believer can cause him or her to yield to the fear of failure. When this occurs, there is a vicious cycle that sets up in the person's life. Fear leads to inactivity resulting in inexperience and ends with inability. To break the cycle of defeat we must commit ourselves to positive action. We must be willing to learn from past failures in order to succeed. Joshua 8 shows us how to move to victory by learning from our mistakes. We must:

1. _____

And the Lord said to Joshua, **Do not fear and do not be dismayed.** Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land. And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it.

Joshua 8:1-2 (ESV)

God said to Joshua, **Don't be timid and don't so much as hesitate.** Take all your soldiers with you and go back to Ai. I have turned the king of Ai over to you—his people, his city, and his land. Joshua 8:1 (The Message)

- a. We can move on because _____ . (Joshua 7:26)
- b. We can move on because _____ . (Romans 8:1)
- c. We can move on because _____ . (1 Corinthians 15:58)

2. _____ (Joshua 3-17)

So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night. Joshua 8:3

- a. Don't be arrogant or _____. (Proverbs 16:8)
- b. Don't try anything _____.
- c. Let God use _____. (lesson of the ambush)

3. _____ (Joshua 8:18-29)

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "**Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand.**" And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. Joshua 8:18

But **Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin** until he had devoted all the inhabitants of Ai to destruction.

Joshua 8:26

- a. The LORD gave the victory but Joshua _____.
- b. Following God's commands is the only way to _____.
- c. We maintain our momentum when we _____, _____, _____. Give it over to God and let Him work it out.