



Finish: Permission to Bomb | January 3, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

One of the best pieces of advice I ever got around goal setting was that I have permission to fail. It sounds counterintuitive, but this week we will discuss how failure and goal setting really do go together.

Key Verses

Jeremiah 8:4-5 (NLT)

"Jeremiah, say to the people, 'This is what the Lord says: "When people fall down, don't they get up again? When they discover they're on the wrong road, don't they turn back? Then why do these people stay on their self-destructive path? Why do the people of Jerusalem refuse to turn back? They cling tightly to their lies and will not turn around. and will not turn around. I listen to their conversations and don't hear a word of truth. Is anyone sorry for doing wrong? Does anyone say, "What a terrible thing I have done"? No! All are running down the path of sin as swiftly as a horse galloping into battle! Even the stork that flies across the sky knows the time of her migration, as do the turtledove, the swallow, and the crane. They all return at the proper time each year. But not my people! They do not know the Lord's laws."

Discussion

No one likes or wants to fail. We all seek success—in our relationships, our careers, and our spiritual lives. Often times our lives are filled with so many things that at which we strive to be successful, that we end up failing at many of them...if not ALL of them. Most of us live a life that is a chaotic grind that lacks intentionality.

1. Describe a normal day in your life.
2. Is there any intentionality in a normal day in your life?

In his book *Finish*, Jon Acuff says that the key to achieving your goals is actually having permission to fail. As counterintuitive as this might seem, allowing yourself to fail at certain things in your life allows you to focus more efforts on a goal that you really want to achieve. What if failing at one thing allowed you to succeed at another more important thing.

3. What is a goal you really want to achieve? How committed to that goal are you?
4. What are some areas in your life where you can allow yourself to fail in order to reach a goal you really want to achieve?

The daily grind is not solely a part of our normal lives. Our spiritual lives can be affected by the chaos as well. Often times in our spiritual lives we do the same thing, at the same time purely traveling down the same path with no intentionality. God has given us permission to not be perfect. In Jeremiah 8:4-7 God seems to be communicating a need for us to be more mindful of the life we choose to lead. Animals learn from their mistakes and adjust, but we typically just do more of the same wishing for more than 24 hours in a day.

5. Do you ever feel yourself needing to do everything? Does your faith life suffer from this?
6. What is one area of your faith life you would like to focus on this year? What would you need to quit for that to happen?

What's Next?

One of the ways to start identifying what you want and don't want, is to make a list. Make a list of everything you have to do. Then mark the things you absolutely have to do, want to do, and could get away with not doing. Decide what you are going to fail at doing so that you get to choose something that is less important rather than accidentally failing at something that matters. Ask God to join you along the way and help to course correct.