

Finding Success in Life

Scripture:

Luke 5:1-9 “And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, ²And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. ³And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon’s, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. ⁴Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, **Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.** ⁵And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. ⁶And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. ⁷And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. ⁸When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. ⁹For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken.”

I. Spiritual hunger will help to bring success in life. (vs. 1)

Luke 6:21 “**Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled.**”

- A. We can never grow or progress if we do not take in what is necessary for growth.
I Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”
- B. You must give yourself to the thing you want to be successful at.
 - 1. The gymnast trains daily.
 - 2. The medical student studies diligently.
 - 3. The happy husband works to make his wife happy. (If mama ain’t happy, nobody is happy.)
- C. You’ve got to want it bad enough to make sacrifices for it. (Whatever it is.)
- D. As Christians we must keep our hunger and thirst centered on spiritual things.

The Myth of Greener Grass

A man walked into a mental institution one day and was taken on a tour. The tour saw one cell where the man was beating his head against the padded walls. He kept saying, "Linda, how could you do it? Linda, how could you do it?" The guide explained that the man was in love with Linda, and when Linda jilted him, he drifted off into the ozone. He couldn't handle it.

They went to the next cell, and there was a man saying, "Linda, Linda, how could this happen? Linda, Linda."

The visitor said, "Who's he?"

The guide said, "He's the man who married Linda." That's the myth of the greener grass.

II. Diligence will help to bring success in life. (vs. 2)

Proverbs 20:13 “Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.”

- A. If those fisherman had not washed and cleaned their nets, the nets would have not held up to the task of holding fish.
- B. Some things must be done even though they seem repetitious. (Making the beds, washing the clothes, mowing the lawn, painting the house.)
- C. Even a mosquito doesn't get a slap on the back until he starts working.
- D. Sometimes people are tempted to give up just before the victory comes.

So long as there is breath in me, that long will I persist. For now I know one of the greatest principles of success; if I persist long enough I will win.

-- Og Mandino

- E. Diligence involves dreaming a big dream.

Four Steps to Your Dream

Years ago a young black child was growing up in Cleveland, in a home which he later described as "materially poor but spiritually rich."

One day a famous athlete, Charlie Paddock, came to his school to speak to the students. At the time Paddock was considered "the fastest human being alive." He told the children, "Listen! What do you want to be? You name it and then believe that God will help you be it." That little boy decided that he too wanted to be the fastest human being on earth.

The boy went to his track coach and told him of his new dream. His coach told him, "It's great to have a dream, but to attain your dream you must build a ladder to it. Here is the ladder to your dreams. The first rung is determination! And the second rung is dedication! The third rung is discipline! And the fourth rung is attitude!"

The result of all that motivation is that he went on to win four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He won the 100 meter dash and broke the Olympic and world records for the 200 meter. His broad jump record lasted for twenty-four years. His name? Jesse Owens.

III. **Making yourself available to the Lord will bring success in life. (vs. 3)**

Romans 12:1 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."*

- A. We don't have to be perfect to be used by God, just available.
- B. Being a living sacrifice means that some times, it will be inconvenient, but remember we're reaching for success.
- C. Our notion of sacrifice is the wringing out of us something we don't want to give up, full of pain and agony and distress. The Bible idea of sacrifice is that I give as a love-gift the very best thing I have.
Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

IV. **Success in life comes if we're willing to change. (vs. 5)**

- A. If you want to get to where you've never gone before, you've got to do what you've never done before.
- B. We must have faith and boldness to accept a new way when it becomes obvious that the old way is not working.
- C. Change is usually not a pleasant experience.
The only person who likes change is a wet baby.
-- Mark Twain
- D. From the beginning of our Christian experience, it is all about change.
I Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

V. **We cannot be successful if we're not obedient.**

Joshua 1:8 *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."*