

On The Frontier

“for the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel”

Knocked Down But Never Knocked Out

by Linus A. Mathis III

You have failed many times. Allow me to jog your memory. The first time you tried to walk, you fell down. The first time you swung a bat at a baseball, you missed. You almost drowned the first time you tried to swim. Maybe the first time you liked someone, they didn't like you. Perhaps your first job interview failed. The first time you drove an automobile in traffic you almost had an accident, didn't you! Well, you are in good company. The English novelist John Creasey got 753 rejection slips before his 564 books were published. The great Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times. But, he also hit 714 home runs. R.H. Macy failed seven times before his store in NYC caught on. Thomas Edison performed over 14,000 experiments in his quest to invent and perfect the incandescent light. Or as he put it, "I have successfully found over 10,000 ways that it will NOT work."

Consider this individual:

Failed in business - age 22. Ran for Legislature, defeated - age 23. Again failed in business - age 24. Elected to Legislature - age 25. Sweetheart died - age 26. Had a nervous breakdown - age 27.

Defeated for Speaker - age 29.
Defeated for Elector - age 31.
Defeated for Congress - age 34.
Elected to Congress - age 37.
Defeated for Congress - age 39.
Defeated for Senate - age 46.
Defeated for Vice President - age 47.
Defeated for Senate - age 49.
Elected President of the United States - age 51.

You've just reviewed the record of Abraham Lincoln.

Any successful person will tell you that they met with more failures than successes. The tragedy is not in failure it's in surrender. The fact is, once you learn to move on in the face of failure, you have learned the greatest key to accomplishment.

This is especially true of "noble" endeavors. As Christians we face the same dilemmas and rejections that others face. The difference lies in the resources and the responses.

Proverbs 24:16

For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. - KJV

II Corinthians 4:7-9

This priceless treasure we hold, so to speak, in common earthenware - to show that the splendid power of it belongs to God and not to us. We are hard-pressed on all sides, but we are never frustrated; we are

puzzled, but never in despair. We are persecuted, but are never deserted: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out! - J.B. Phillips New Testament in Modern English

If favorable circumstances were THE criterion for success, Charles Goodyear could not have discovered the method for vulcanizing rubber. He was a convict working in a prison kitchen at that time. Henry Ford would not have built the V-8 engine, as the prevailing consensus of the engineering world held it to be impossible. Joseph would not have become second in command to Pharaoh.

Genesis 41:39-44

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, *there is none so discreet and wise as thou art*:

Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen,

and put a gold chain about his neck;

And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him *ruler* over all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, *I am* Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

He had no *ADVANTAGE*, his brothers previously sold him into slavery. Did he complain? No! Did he quit? NO!

What would have happened if Lincoln and Edison gave up? What would have happened if the "Sultan of Swat" stopped going to bat? What if you never got up to take that second baby step? Ponder this, the bumblebee is proven to be aerodynamically incapable of flight. Its body is too heavy, its wings are too small. Does it fly?

The great boxer, Gentleman James J. Corbett is credited with saying, "you become champion by fighting one more round." I can fight one more round. How about you? **ONE MORE ROUND!** They are only three minutes long. **JUST GIVE ME ONE MORE ROUND!** Yes, we may get knocked down, but **NEVER** knocked out! Don't lose by default! Don't forfeit! Fight **ONE MORE ROUND!** Quitters never

win, winners never quit.

II Corinthians 4:13-14

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

The resurrection is the key stone of Truth, the basis for our hope. It is our stay in life. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is what makes eternal life available. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is what makes healing, miracles and deliverance possible. It is what separates Christianity from all the religions of the world. It is what we preach!

II Corinthians 4:15-18

For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the

things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

We will not allow ourselves to be discouraged! Why? Because we have treasures in earthen vessels. We may be attacked but we are not beaten. It is our delight to serve our God. We do so by serving the Word of Life so that others can give thanks to Him too.

Don't give up! Go one more round! That's what makes a champion.

Don't ever stop speaking God's Word!

Speak the Word!!!
