

Six Ways to Be a Loser

051417PM

Text: Mark 8:34-38

Introduction:

- God's definition of success is not the same as men's – 1 Cor. 1:26-29.
- Materially – Mk. 12:41-44 (poor widow); Mk. 8:36.
- Militarily – Psa. 33:16-17.
- Monetarily – Pro. 11:4.
- Popularity, man's or God's approval? – Jos. 1:8-9.
- A righteous life is a successful life & it is the only enduring success – Mat. 13:41-43.
- The converse is true – sinful foolishness guarantees failure!

PROCRASTINATE! – Put off 'till tomorrow what you could have done today (Acts 24:25).

- The benefits of industry – Pro. 6:6-8.
- The hazards of laziness – Pro. 6:9-11.
- Excuses instead of solutions – Pro. 26:13.
- "Practice makes perfect" – Pro. 26:14.
- Gluttonous ingratitude (indulgent thanklessness) – Pro. 26:15.
- Pride – Pro. 26:16.

PASS THE BLAME! – Never take responsibility for anything!

Practice repeating, "IT'S NOT MY FAULT!"

- Eve and Adam – Gen. 3:10-13.
- Excuses for not coming to the Lord – Lk. 14:15-20, 24.
- Day of Judgment we will have only ourselves to blame! – 2 Cor. 5:10

MAKE EXCUSES! – Play the current cultural game of victimhood!

- Sin is a choice, a practice – Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3.
- Individual responsibility is the Bible model – 2 Cor 5:10; Rev. 20:12-13.

REFUSE TO CHANGE! – We've always done it this way; we've never done it that way; keep doing what you've always done so that you'll keep getting the same results.

- Hardness of heart – Heb 3:13.
- Storing up wrath due to a hard, unrepentant heart – Rom. 2:4-6.

DO NOT STUDY!

- It is OK to read, but never, ever study.
- If you don't study, you will never be bothered by your conscience.
- If you don't study, you will never be able to teach others (2 Tim. 2:1-2).

DO NOT PRAY! Especially when it is inconvenient, or everything is going OK anyway.

- Christians are assured our prayers are heard and answered:
- Success over anxiety – Phil. 4:6-7.
- Success over temptations/trials – Heb. 4:15-16; Mat. 26:36-46.
- Success over sin (with repentance) – Acts 8:22-24.
- The fervent prayers of righteous people are very effective! – Jas. 5:16-18.
- We must always pray and not lose heart – Lk. 18:1.

Decision:

- People would never think of planning for failure.
- The interesting thing is, failure doesn't require a plan.
- All it requires is apathy and disinterest in things of spiritual importance.
- Most people would rather have a guaranteed plan for success – there is one: The Gospel Plan!