

# The Measure of Success.

This message is a culmination of several other messages I have heard, This is a normal thing.

There is great teaching on these topics. I have used these in my studies for this message..

"ten shekles and a shirt" by Paris Reedhead

"Can on man make a difference" Bill Wilson

## Texts:

1Cor 3:13,

2 Corinthians 9:8-9

John 3:36

2 PETER 3:9

John 14:13-14

Luke 9 V48

Isaiah 58:9

1 pet 4:11(Gods Glory)

Luke 10:30(the good Samaritan)

Main Texts: Judges ch 17 and 18 (Micah and Levite)

## Beginning

The man in front of you is not the same man that was here last year. Last 10 years

What has changed you may ask.

Hunger. Maybe one might say hunger for God... I used to be very zealous for the Lord. Building rock alters, constantly in prayer, constantly in study, I went to bible college with the matra, "I just want to know You."

Something quenched that hunger... a bit. Realizing this I recently went on a journey with worship, in hopes that some of that hunger would rub off. Some did... But What was it. Though it's true I still read the bible, and will continue, Listen to it as well. And hear the Lord. I don't pray as I used too. Although I am in constant communication. And still pray in tongues.

Somewhere I had adopted a belief that ended in blaming the Lord for all the failures of my life. How did that happen? I reveal this in the hopes this morning of helping someone to know who Jesus is this morning.

Hey stubble

*1Cor 3:13* **13**his workmanship will be evident, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will prove the quality of each man's work....

In the Calvinist belief, and in most people that are bitter against God there stand one basic concept that at it heart is faulty. In the movie the Apostle where Rober duval is asked Do you believe that God is in Control of everything.

*2 Corinthians 9:8&9* "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.'"

I can understand why many might believe such might believe such a thing. In support my arguments where things like.

1. God is Almighty, therefore He is in control of everything.
2. Prophecies coming to pass, this is evidence of the future being already written.  
How could anyone know what was going to come to pass otherwise.
3. I experience a time repeat in my life.

Yes God is in control of everything.... So I have nothing to worry about.

Relatives that were harmed. The Lord will work things toward good, and though he allows bad things to happen it is not his will that they happen! Pastor Hood used to say bad things are the wrath of man not God.

Here is the Truth:

*John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on Him."*

Here is God's Will.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>9</sup> For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

**2 PETER 3:9**

[KJ21](#)

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

I tend to **sometime confuse the Truth of the will** of man with the truth that is God.

Here is the problem with Believe that **The Lord is in Control of Everything**... Then He is at fault for everything evil.

### **If the Lord is in control He is too Blame!!**

I could blame the Lord for my broken heart, or the betrayal of my heart, saying this is God's will for Me! All my failures are the will of God!.

**What is Failure?** By what measure do we determine, Success from Failure? I can't speak for you in this matter.

For me, I somehow took it for granted, that my Goals and Dreams of success in God was God's will for me. Today after all this is still believe this, but now for different reasons.

Back then though I was zealous with blind faith, believing the all mightiest will is always done. But after living the better part of my life without achieving these dream, then the only answer was that failure for me is the will of God for my life.

I judged myself on many levels as a failure

### **Failure as a Father**

My kids are not following Jesus. As a parent and father I failed to my love for Jesus to them loving Jesus. Failures as a father in several area, not being able to provide for them in times of trouble. I judged myself a failure as a father.

**Failure in life** - Never achieving personal goals, at my age people having worked as hard as me have houses, and ranches and businesses. My book never sold, my music never went anywhere, my radio station just sits there and cost time and money-- Failure in success.

**Failure as a minister** - the Church I pastored was closed down, I haven't been used by the Lord to see thousands saved. My bible college degree accounted for little – yes a failure in ministry...

**A failure as a husband, or in romance..** My wife left, I have been single a long time, everytime I dare to muster the faith to show interest in a person in such a way it always ends in rejection. And I am poor with rejection... Yes a failure as a Husband, and in romance in general.

So then I ask the question again

By what measure do we determine, **Success from Failure?** And by what measure do we determine our success in God?

**Sure the quick answer, Jesus is our measuring rod. Lets look.**

I could be said that:

**Jesus was a failure as a father,** having never sired children in the natural..

**As a Minister his efforts** where questionable in his time, after preaching to hundreds of thousands of people he only had 12, and they all abandoned him in the time of testing.

**As a husband and in romance,** Again a failure in his time. Never marrying, or finding “the one God has for Him.”

**Failure in life, never owning a house,** as he has no place to rest his head, Jesus was Itinerate from the beginning of his earthy ministry to the end, Of course he inherited all thing, but you understand what I am saying.

So what is the rule of my life? By what means do we measure success and failure?

A lot in common

## Judges 17

*And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name was Micah.*

<sup>2</sup>*And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst, and spakest of also in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my son.*

<sup>3</sup>*And when he had restored the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: now therefore I will restore it unto thee.*

<sup>4</sup>*Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred shekels of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah.*

History about Micah..

Collected a little from this religion a little from that religion. Until he found something that He felt was acceptable, which made both He and His Idea of God Happy.. Most of the world is like this.

<sup>v8</sup>*In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

<sup>7</sup>*And there was a young man out of **Bethlehemjudah of the family of Judah**, who **was a Levite**, and he sojourned there. **????***

*And the man departed out of the city from Bethlehemjudah to sojourn where he could find a place: and he came to mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.*

*<sup>9</sup> And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I am a Levite of Bethlehemjudah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place.*

*And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in.*

Appeared Success in ministry..

*<sup>11</sup> And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons.*

*<sup>12</sup> And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.*

Notice how easily Micah replaced his son.. with this Levite.

*<sup>13</sup> Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.*

**Measuring Success by what He perceived God to Want..** Remember that this image of God was this conglomerate of stuff out of several religions that Micah felt was good.

**History of the tribe of Dan..** They were not able to displace those that lived in the land that was given to them so they looked elsewhere and finding

*<sup>7</sup> Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure;*

**A people minding there own business,** and living in peace that they could easily conquer.

*V 18 And these went into Micah's house, and fetched the carved image, the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image. Then said the priest unto them, What do ye?*

*<sup>19</sup> And they said unto him, Hold thy peace, lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: is it better for thee to be a priest unto the house of one man, or that thou be a priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel?*

*<sup>20</sup> And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people.*

*<sup>21</sup> So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them.*

How easy it was for the Levite to first sell his Ethics and Morals, and compromise what he knew was God for a sum of money, and then

Condoning the acts of the Danites, for his own come –up - ins. <sup>20</sup> And the priest's heart was glad;

These are the problems,, Humanism, Pragmatism..

The end result of God is whatever makes us happy. Micah easily assembled a belief structure that made him believe he was successful. The Levite so readily sold-out Micah for what made his heart Glad.. What He deemed to be success..

Lets go forward.

*Luke 9 V48 Jsus said <sup>48</sup> And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.*

*V54 <sup>54</sup> And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?*

They didn't get it did they...



*John 14:13-14 King James Version (KJV)*

*<sup>13</sup>And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

I asked Jesus to Heal the World... He did.

Soloman Asked for Wisdom.. He eventually forsook that wisdom.

Elisha [2 Kings 2:23-25](#) two bares came out and killed the kids..

All the women and children of the Old world.

WE can easily find fault in God..

Let us go back to the beginning a tie this all together.

The problem is that we measure success according to the God we have created in our mind, Like Micah we have accepted a selective truth of God, for different reasons and decided through interpretation what God wants, or what our dreams and visions are in God.

Since we are governed by Humanism we generally go for what ever make our heart Glad Like the levit preist. The success of Our dreams is always God's will for us. (This is true) the problem comes when we fail.

Since God is Almighty, and like the disciples we just don't ever seem to get it we begin to believe that Our Failures are part of God's plan..

Costs it all....

## Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

*Matt 16:24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life<sup>aj</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?*

*Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*

Daily is the Key here....

The difference between what God Allows, and What God Wills.

My failures, He allowed...yes Danites to wipe out Laish...yes, He allowed my sister to get Cancer and die on my couch.. yes. He Allowed all that.....

But when did he allow it... When he gave adam an eve free will to choose. By the way this is when he also allowed his own son to be tortured and crucified.

Bill Wilson "I've witnessed twenty-two murders during my time in New York, We've had staff members raped and killed. I've been stabbed twice. I've had two concussions and I have been shot, point

-blank in the face." Yet, he will not leave, he is there to stay (Wilson 2012)

Was it God's will for any of this to Happen...NO!

Jesus Wept... The Father Cried at every travesty that happens.. Death, Sickness, Evil. This is not God's Will For you! God is allowing it for a time, but the bible proclaims that the last enemy God conquers is death!!

There is no Plan B for your life.. God's will is Plan A. And he will help you to return to it.

**What do you think. can one person make a difference..?**

**Moses and Aron in numbers chapter 16:41-46**

**The good Samaritan.Luke 10:30**

**Isaiah 58:9**

***“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, 10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.***

*11 The Lord will guide you always;*

*he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. 12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations;*

