

Life's Supervillians

The Joker and Failure

Success. We admire it. We yearn for it. We work for it. And we deserve it. But somewhere on the continuum between today's reality and tomorrow's potential are the mistakes, missteps, and misfortunes of failure. And epic fails can turn positive potential into hopelessness and despair. This week, we'll look at one of the greatest supervillains of all time: Failure and how it's trying to ruin every good thing between you and your potential for success.

Matthew 21:7–11

1. Only _____ gets to define _____ success.
 - And by default, _____ failure
2. Have a _____ and work _____ .
 - The difference between failure and success is getting up one more time.
 - There is no lasting success without temporary failure.
3. Lasting success depends on _____ .

 - You need others to carry on
 - Success takes a team ... you need accountability
4. Your _____ is not the end of your success potential.

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read Matthew 21. This chapter includes the traditional Palm Sunday arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem and the beginning of the unraveling of his widespread popularity. If ever there is a picture of someone's rise and fall from success to failure, surely this passage is one of the classics. (To get a full picture of Jesus' fall from "public grace," read chapters 21–26).

1. Jesus went from public hero to public enemy #1 in a matter of days. Why do you think that was?

2. Read Matthew 26:47–56. Briefly list some of the people mentioned in this passage who stood by Jesus when he was arrested

3. List some of the ways Jesus failed in the eyes of the crowd and in the eyes of his closest followers.

4. How do you think Jesus would have defined "success" in terms of his mission on earth?

7. According to Acts 1:15, Jesus left his ministry in the hands of the first church ... a total of 120 members. Do you think the first church members thought Jesus' ministry was a success? Why or why not?

8. When you are 90 and reflecting over your life, how will you know if you've been a success or not?

9. What do you need to change now in your life to make that a reality?
