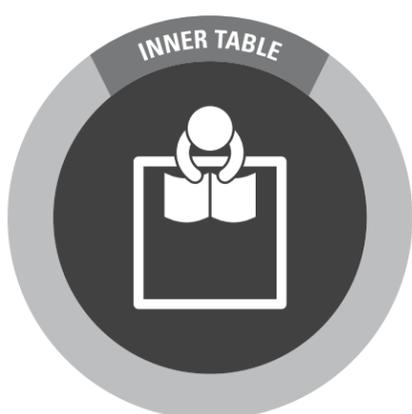


Sermon Notes

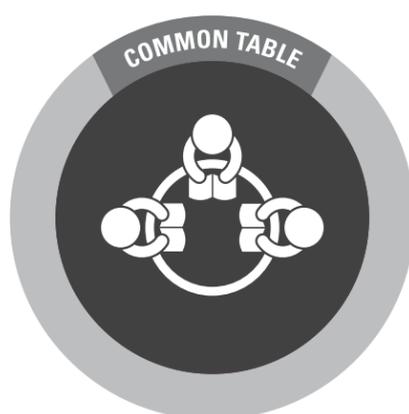
“Fail Well”
March 24th, 2019



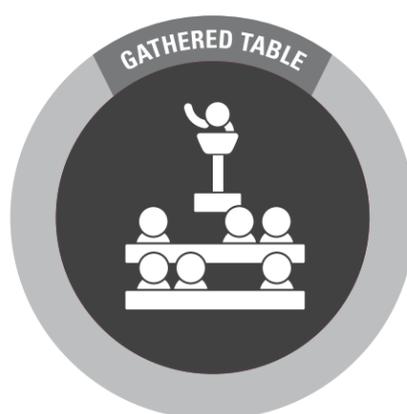
**First
Friends**
Church



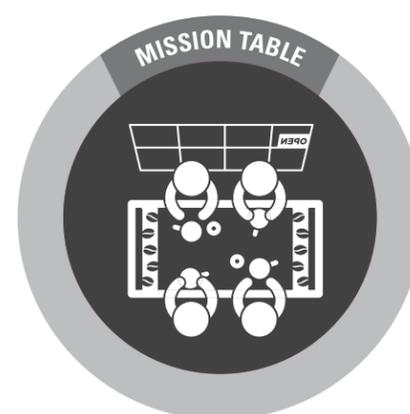
Seeking God
in Solitude



Finding God
in Friendship



Celebrating God
in Community



Reflecting God
in Relationships

Reflection Questions *(please use these individually or in groups)*

Sermon Questions:

1. Thank God that there is no amount, or depth of, failure that will deter the overflowing, generous, inviting love of Christ!
2. How have your past failures redirected your life? Is there a failure from your recent past that has yet to lead to anything new? Ask God to reveal your path forward by the light of Scripture and the power of His presence.
3. Are you going through a season of life in which you feel "lesser-than," or are putting yourself in compromising places/groups, or reacting out of fear? Beware of these precursors to failure.
4. Has someone close to you experienced a significant failure recently? Pray about how you might approach him/her in order to share that burden, but also gracefully share the message that failure isn't fatal.

Additional Questions:

5. Does the fear of failure ever cripple you from action? Why do you think that we, as humans, are so afraid to fail?
6. Are there any past failures you are grateful for because it led to something better?

Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **Matthew 16:13-20** | What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord and not simply a "better version" of what we already know? Is following Jesus safe for you? Is there any risk of failure in your pursuit of Jesus?
- **John 12:15-18, 25-27** | What do you think Peter was afraid of that he would deny following Jesus? Do we have similar fears?
- **John 21:15-19** | Do we sometimes assume that there are some failures out there that would make us unlovable to God? Peter literally abandoned Jesus to the cross and Jesus restored his dignity!
- **2 Timothy 1:6-13** | Do you believe that the Spirit of God is not a Spirit of fear but a Spirit of love, power, and self-discipline?

Self-Care Disciplines *(Excerpts from Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster)*

March Discipline: Submission | Body of Christ (p.123)

Submission and service function concurrently. Hence, much of the practical outflow of submission will come in the next month (service). There are, however, seven acts of submission that we should draw attention to. There will be one or two mentioned each week in the month of March.

The fifth act of submission is to the believing community, the body of Christ. If there are jobs to be done and tasks to be accomplished, we look at them closely to see if they are God's invitation to the cross-life. We cannot do everything, but we can each do some things. Sometimes these are matters of an organizational nature, but most frequently they are spontaneous opportunities for little tasks of service. At times, calls to service the Church universal may come, and if the ministry is confirmed in our hearts, we can submit to it with assurance and reverence.

Note: Don't let these burden you each week. Please engage only if you feel it would be beneficial in caring for yourself. Sometimes self-care involves giving yourself a break, even from self care disciplines.