

WHEN YOU'VE HAD A BUSINESS SETBACK

How God Turns Setbacks into Comebacks
Rick Warren

Luke 5:1-11

"One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat." Luke 5:1-3 (NIV)

"When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'" Luke 5:4-5 (NIV)

"When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full they began to sink!" Luke 5:6-7 (NIV)

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'VE HAD A BUSINESS SETBACK

("When You've Come Up Empty")

1. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. Luke 5:3 (NIV)

• **I MUST GET JESUS** _____

My boat is: What I do to make a living

What does it mean to have Jesus in my boat?

2. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.' Luke 5:4-5 (NIV)

Which of these is preventing me from admitting I need help?

PRIDE? STUBBORNNESS? FEAR? (circle)

3. _____
Even if it seems illogical, you can't afford it, or it appears foolish to others.

"Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'" Luke 5:5 (NIV)

WHEN: "Now launch out"

WHAT: "Let down your nets"

WHERE: "into deep water"

What has God told you to do that you still haven't done?

Be baptized? Start serving? Forgive someone? Start tithing?

4. _____
The Faith Factor: You must trust him to do what he says he'll do.

"When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink!" Luke 5:6-7 (NIV)

PETER'S REACTION

"When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners." Luke 5:8-9 (NIV)

THE REAL LESSON

"Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!' And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus." Luke 5:10-11 (NLT)

WHICH IS JESUS CALLING YOU TO DO?

#1. Is Jesus calling ME to leave my job to serve him full-time?
Am I willing to do that "because he says so"?

OR

#2. Is Jesus calling ME to start using my job as a platform to share his message of hope? (Be a Marketplace Missionary)

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WHEN YOUR SETBACK SEEMS IRREVERSIBLE

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SETBACK: A loss of progress, a defeat of a plan, or a reversal of good fortune. Anything that sets you back.

"I looked for good, but evil came instead. I waited for some light, but darkness fell. My heart is troubled and restless. Days of suffering torment me." Job 30:26-27 (NIV)

HOW DO I TRUST GOD FOR A COMEBACK WHEN MY SETBACK SEEMS IRREVERSABLE?

T.R.U.S.T. God like Job did

T

"Job stood up, tore his robe in grief, and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground and worshiped." Job 1:20 (GW)

Job: *"I can't be quiet! I'm angry and bitter. I have to speak!"* Job 7:11 (GNT)

"Cry out in the night . . . Pour out your heart like water in prayer to the Lord."
Lamentations 2:19 (NCV)

"I believed, so I said, 'I am completely ruined.'" Psalm 116:10 (NCV)

R

Job said, *"I came naked from my mother's womb," he said, 'and I shall have nothing when I die. The Lord gave me everything I had, and they were his to take away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. In all of this Job did not sin or revile God."* Job 1:21-22 (TLB)

The antidote to bitterness is gratitude for God's goodness

What to remember when you've had a setback:

- God will never stop loving me. Job 10:12
- God has a plan for my life. Job 23:14
- God cares about every detail of my life. Job 23:10, 31:4
- God is in control of things don't understand. Job 34:13
- God will protect me. Job 5:11

"Even though the fig trees have no fruit and no grapes grow on the vines, even though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no grain, even though the

sheep all die and the cattle stalls are empty, I will still be joyful and glad, because the Lord God is my Savior." Habakkuk 3:17-18 (GNT)

U

(Elihu) *"Don't let your anger and the pain you endured make you sneer at God. Your reputation and riches cannot protect you from distress, nor can you find safety in the dark world below. Be on guard! Don't turn to evil as a way of escape. God's power is unlimited . . . Others have praised God for what he has done, so join with them."* Job 36:18-24 (CEV)

"True wisdom and real power belong to God; from him we learn how to live and also what to live for." Job 12:13 (MSG)

"Go to the Lord for help, and worship him." 1 Chronicles 16:11 (GNT)

"Those who worship God will be encouraged." Psalm 69:32 (GNT)

David: *"Here I am in the place of worship, eyes open, drinking in Your strength and glory."* Psalm 63:2 (MSG)

PAUL *"Because you are praying for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ is helping me, I know this trouble will bring my freedom."* Philippians 1:19 (NCV)

S

"His wife said to him, 'Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die.' But Job replied, 'You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?' So in all this, Job said nothing wrong." Job 2:9-10 (NLT)

Job: *"Even if God kills me, I have hope in him."* Job 13:15 (NCV)

"People who don't know God are always worrying." Matthew 6:32 (CEV)

T

Jesus: *"I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world."* John 16:33 (MSG)

JOB'S COMEBACK

"After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before." Job 42:10 (NIV)

WHEN A SETBACK ISN'T YOUR FAULT

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Paul's Shipwreck at Malta: Acts 27:1-43

"The ship hit a sandbar and ran aground. The bow of the ship stuck fast, while the stern was exposed to the violence of the waves and began to break apart."

Acts 27:41 (TLB)

WHAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO MAKE POOR CHOICES THAT LEAD TO SETBACKS & STORMS?

• WHEN WE _____

"Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement. So Paul warned them, 'Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also'" Acts 27:9-10 (NIV)

"But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship's captain and the owner than to Paul." Acts 27:11 (NLT)

• WHEN WE _____

"Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest." Acts 27:12 (NIV)

• WHEN WE _____

"When a gentle wind from the south started blowing, the men thought it was a good time to do what they had planned. So they pulled up the anchor, and we sailed along the coast of Crete." Acts 27:13 (CEV)

"But shortly afterwards the weather changed abruptly, and a heavy wind of typhoon strength (a "northeaster," they called it) caught the ship and blew it out to sea." Acts 27:14 (TLB)

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STORMS?

1. STORMS CAN _____

"The wind carried the ship away, and we couldn't sail against the wind. We couldn't do anything, so we were carried along by the wind." Acts 27:15 (GW)

"They tied ropes around the ship to hold it together." Acts 27:17 (NCV)

2. STORMS CAN _____

"The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing all the cargo overboard. The following day they even took some of the ship's gear and threw it overboard." Acts 27:18-19 (NLT)

3. STORMS CAN _____

"The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone." Acts 27:20 (NLT)

WHAT SHOULD I REMEMBER WHEN IT FEELS HOPELESS?

How Can I Anchor My Life in a Storm?

1ST ANCHOR: THE PRESENCE OF GOD

• REMEMBER _____

"Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, 'Men, if you had listened to me . . . you would have avoided all this damage and loss. But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me."

Acts 27:21-23 (NIV)

2ND ANCHOR: THE PURPOSE OF GOD

• REMEMBER _____

(Paul) "and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.'" Acts 27:24 (NLT)

3RD ANCHOR: THE PROMISE OF GOD

• REMEMBER _____

"So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

Acts 27:25-26 (NIV)

"And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go." Acts 27:30-32 (ESV)

"Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head.' After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. They were all encouraged." Acts 27:34-36 (NIV)

"the officer, wanted to let Paul live and did not allow the soldiers to kill the prisoners. Instead he ordered everyone who could swim to jump into the water first and swim to land. 44 The rest were to follow using wooden boards or pieces of the ship. And this is how all the people made it safely to land."

Acts 27:43-44 (NCV)

WHEN A SETBACK LEAVES YOU EMOTIONALLY EMPTY

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"King Ahab told his wife Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he put all the prophets of Baal. She sent this message to Elijah: 'May my gods strike me dead if by this time tomorrow I don't do the same thing to you that you did to the prophets.' Elijah was afraid and fled for his life; he took his servant and went to Beersheba in Judah. Leaving the servant there. Elijah walked a whole day into the wilderness. He stopped and sat down in the shade of a tree and wished he would die. 'It's too much, Lord,' he prayed. 'Take away my life; I might as well be dead!' He lay down under the tree and fell asleep' . . . He answered, "Lord God Almighty, I have always served you—you alone. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed all your prophets. I am the only one left—and they are trying to kill me!" 1 Kings 19:1-5, 10 (GNT)

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN MY EMOTIONAL TANK IS EMPTY?

1. _____ **CREEPS INTO MY LIFE**
"Elijah was afraid."
2. **I FIND MYSELF** _____ **FROM THINGS**
"Elijah fled for his life."
3. **I START BACKING OUT** _____
"Leaving the servant there."
4. **I MAKE** _____
"Walked for a whole day into the wilderness."
5. **I PUSH MYSELF PAST** _____
"He sat down under the tree."
6. **MY WORK** _____
"I have always served."
7. **I COMPLAIN THAT I WANT TO** _____
"It's too much Lord."
8. **I FEEL** _____
"I'm the only one left—and they are trying to kill me too!"
9. **I COMPARE MYSELF TO OTHERS &** _____
"For I am no better than my ancestors!"

10. I THINK _____

"Take away my life; I might as well be dead!"

"Elijah was a person just like us." James 5:17 (ERV)

HOW DOES GOD REFILL MY EMOTIONAL TANK?

1. GOD MAKES ME _____

"He makes me to lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul." Psalm 23:2-3 (NKJV)

"Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched and told him, 'Get up and eat!' He looked around and there beside his head was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So he ate and drank and laid down again. Then the angel of the LORD came again and touched him and said, 'Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you.' So Elijah got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength." 1 Kings 19:5-8 (NLT)

2. GOD ENCOURAGES ME _____

"Next, Elijah traveled 40 days to get to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God. There he came to a cave, where he spent the night. But the Lord said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' Then Elijah said." 1 Kings 19:8-9 (NLT)

3. GOD TELLS ME _____

"Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain . . . but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a voice said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'" 1 Kings 19:11-13 (NLT)

"Just thinking of my troubles and my lonely wandering makes me miserable. That's all I ever think about, and I am depressed. Then I remember something that fills me with hope. The Lord's kindness never fails! If he had not been merciful, we would have been destroyed. The Lord can always be trusted to show mercy each morning. Deep in my heart I say, 'The Lord is all I need; I can depend on him!'" Lamentations 3:19-24 (CEV)

Remember God's S _____
SUGAR U _____
G _____
A _____
R _____

"Go back the way you came . . . to the desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael . . . also anoint Jehu . . . and anoint Elisha."

1 Kings 19:15-16 (NIV)

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP

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“At last the wall was completed to half its original height around the entire city—for the workers worked hard. But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabians, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going right ahead and that the breaks in the wall were being repaired, they became furious. They plotted to lead an army against Jerusalem to bring about riots and confusion. But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves. Then some of the leaders began complaining that the workmen were becoming tired; and there was so much rubble to be removed that we could never get it done by ourselves. Meanwhile, our enemies were planning to swoop down upon us and kill us, thus ending our work. And whenever the workers who lived in the nearby cities went home for a visit, our enemies tried to talk them out of returning to Jerusalem.” Nehemiah 4:6-12 (TLB)

4 SETBACKS THAT CAN CAUSE DISCOURAGEMENT

1. WHEN SOMETHING _____ THIS CAUSES _____

“The people in Judah said ‘The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.’” Nehemiah 4:10 (NIV)

“Never forget how the Amalekites . . . attacked you when you were exhausted and weary, and they struck down those who were straggling behind.”
Deuteronomy 25:17-18 (NLT)

2. WHEN SOMETHING _____ THIS CAUSES _____

“There is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.” Nehemiah 4:10 (NIV)

“Come, Lord, and show me your mercy, for I am helpless, overwhelmed, in deep distress.” Psalm 25:16 (TLB)

3. WHEN I START _____ THIS CAUSES A SENSE OF _____

“we cannot rebuild the wall.” Nehemiah 4:10 (NIV)

4. WHEN THE _____ THIS CAUSES _____

“Meanwhile, our enemies were planning to swoop down upon us and kill us, thus ending our work.” Nehemiah 4:11 (TLB)

“Then the Jews who lived near our enemies came. They told us ten times, ‘Everywhere you turn, the enemy will attack us.’” Nehemiah 4:12

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I FEEL LIKE GIVING UP?

Do the 3 things Nehemiah did

1. _____
“So I stationed armed guards at the most vulnerable places of the wall and assigned people by families with their swords, lances, and bows.”
Nehemiah 4:13 (MSG)

“Some people have given up the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other.” Hebrews 4:25 (CEV)

2. _____
“Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious.’” Nehemiah 4:14 (NLT)

(Jonah) *“When I had lost all hope, I turned my thoughts once more to the Lord.”*
Jonah 2:7 (TLB)

(David) *“I’m completely discouraged . . . Revive me by your Word!”*
Psalm 119:25 (TLB)

3. _____
(Then I told them) *“Fight for your families, and your sons and your daughters, and wives and homes.”* Nehemiah 4:14 (NIV)

Next Step

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WHEN OTHERS KEEP SETTING YOU BACK

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Genesis 37-50

Much of Joseph's life included a series of painful setbacks from his dream to do great things with his life. But God used them to position Joseph for a spectacular comeback that saved 2 entire nations: Israel & Egypt

1st SETBACK: GROWING UP IN A HOME WHERE HE WAS

"Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So, one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him. One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever."

Genesis 37:3-5 (NLT)

2nd SETBACK:

"When Joseph's saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. 'Here comes the dreamer!' they said. Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

Genesis 37:18-20 (NLT)

"Reuben heard them and tried to save Joseph. 'Let's not kill him,' he said. 'Just throw him into this well in the wilderness, but don't hurt him.' He said this, planning to save him from them and send him back to his father. When Joseph came up to his brothers, they ripped off his long robe with full sleeves. Then they took him and threw him into the well, which was dry." Genesis 37:21-24 (GNT)

3rd SETBACK:

"Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers listened to him. Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt." Genesis 37:26-28 (ESV)

4th SETBACK:

"Then the brothers killed a goat and spattered its blood on Joseph's coat, and took the coat to their father and asked him to identify it. 'We found this in the field,' they told him. 'Is it Joseph's coat or not?' Their father recognized it at once. 'Yes,' he sobbed, 'it is my son's coat. A wild animal has eaten him. Joseph is without doubt torn in pieces.' Then Israel tore his garments and put on sackcloth and mourned for his son in deepest mourning for many weeks. His family all tried to comfort him, but it was no use. 'I will die in mourning for my son,' he would say, and then break down and cry."

Genesis 37:31-35 (TLB)

5th SETBACK:

"Meanwhile, in Egypt, the traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of the Pharaoh—the king of Egypt." Genesis 37:36 (TLB)

6th SETBACK:

"Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, 'Come to bed with me!' But he refused. 'With me in charge,' he told her, '... How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?' And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, 'Come to bed with me!' But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. 'Look,' she said to them, 'this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.' She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. . . . When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, 'This is how your slave treated me,' he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison." Genesis 39:6-20

7th SETBACK:

Story of Pharaoh's Wine Steward & Baker; Genesis 40:1-23:

"Then Joseph said to him, '... Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit.' ... Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him." Genesis 40:12-15, 23 (ESV)

WHAT MADE JOSEPH SO RESILIENT?

1.

IN THE PIT

"Jacob's sons became jealous of Joseph and sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God was with him and saved him from all his troubles." Acts 7:9-10 (NCV)

“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar was an officer to the king of Egypt and the captain of the palace guard. He bought Joseph from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man. He lived in the house of his master.”

Genesis 39:1-2 (NCV)

AT POTIPHAR'S

“Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake.”

Genesis 39:3-5 (NLT)

IN PRISON

“So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison.” Genesis 39:20-22 (NLT)

“The jailer did not worry about anything, because the Lord was with Joseph and made him successful in all that he did.” Genesis 39:23 (CEV)

2.

“Joseph said to them, ‘Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people.’” Genesis 50:19-20 (CSB)

3.

“The king said to him, ‘I have had a dream, and no one can explain it. I have been told that you can interpret dreams.’ Joseph answered, ‘I cannot, Your Majesty, but God will give a favorable interpretation.’” Genesis 41:15-16 (GNT)

“And the king asked them, ‘Can we find a better man than Joseph to take this job? God's spirit is truly in him!’ So the king said to Joseph, ‘God has shown you all this. There is no one as wise and understanding as you are, so I will put you in charge of my palace. All the people will obey your orders, and only I will be greater than you.’ Then the king said to Joseph, ‘Look! I have put you in charge of all the land of Egypt.’ Then the king took off from his own finger his ring with the royal seal on it, and he put it on Joseph's finger. He gave Joseph fine linen clothes to wear, and he put a gold chain around Joseph's neck . . . The king said to him, ‘I am the king, and I say that no one in all the land of Egypt may lift a hand or a foot without your permission.’” Genesis 41:38-44 (NCV)

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WHEN A SETBACK FILLS YOU WITH FEAR

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TRUTHS ABOUT SETBACKS TO REMEMBER

1. THERE ARE NO _____ WITHOUT _____
2. EVERY SETBACK IS A _____ OR A COMEBACK
3. A SETBACK IS INTENDED NOT TO _____, BUT TO _____ FOR MY NEXT STAGE OF RESPONSIBILITY
4. SETBACKS ARE _____

COMMON FEARS AT THE BIRTH OF JESUS

- **MARY FACED** _____
"Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 'Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus . . . He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!' Mary asked the angel, 'But how can this happen?'"
 Luke 1:29-34 (NLT)
- **JOSEPH FACED** _____
"This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. 'Joseph, son of David,' the angel said, 'do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.'" Matthew 1:18-20 (NLT)
- **SHEPHERDS FACED** _____
"That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!'" Luke 2:8-10 (NLT)
- **KING HEROD FACED** _____

"When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king . . . some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, 'Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.' When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem." Matthew 2:1-3 (CEV)

- **ZECHARIAH FACED** _____
"An angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah, standing on the right side of the incense table. When he saw the angel, Zechariah was startled and frightened. But the angel said to him, 'Zechariah, don't be afraid. God has heard your prayer.'" Luke 1:11-13 (NCV)

HOW CAN I REPLACE MY FEARS WITH FAITH?

1. _____
"Mary responded, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true.'" Luke 1:38 (NLT)

"Surrender your heart to God, turn to him in prayer, and give up your sins—even those you do in secret. Then you won't be ashamed; you will be confident and fearless. Your troubles will go away like water beneath a bridge, and your darkest night will be brighter than noon. You will rest safe and secure, filled with hope and emptied of worry!" Job 11:13-18 (CEV)
 2. _____
"whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Romans 14:23 (KJV)
 3. _____
"Mary said: 'With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Savior. God cares for me, his humble servant . . . God has blessed me. God All-Powerful has done great things for me, and his name is holy . . . The Lord has used his powerful arm . . . God gives the hungry good things to eat . . . The Lord made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his family forever!"
 Luke 1:46-55 (CEV)
- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Mary sang! | Luke 1:46-56 |
| Elizabeth sang! | Luke 1: 42-45 |
| The Angels sang! | Luke 2:13-14 |
| The Shepherds sang! | Luke 2:20 |
| Zechariah sang! | Luke 1:67-79 |
- You lose your fear with you feel God is near!
4. _____
Elizabeth said to Mary, "You are blessed, because you believed that the Lord would do what he said." Luke 1:45 (NLT)

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. I trust God, so I am not afraid of what people can do to me! I praise God for his promise to me." Psalm 56:3-4 (ERV)

WHEN NO ONE UNDERSTANDS YOUR GOAL

How God Turns Setbacks into Comebacks
Rick Warren

Lessons from Noah's Life: Genesis 6-9

FOUR CHOICES I MUST MAKE IN ORDER TO FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE & PLAN FOR MY LIFE

1. I MUST _____

"This is the account of Noah and his descendants. Noah had God's approval and was a man of integrity among the people of his time." Genesis 6:9 (GW)

"Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth." Genesis 6:11-12 (ESV)

"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart."
Genesis 6:5-6 (TLB)

Jesus said, *"When the Son of Man comes again, it will be as it was when Noah lived."* Luke 17:26 (NCV)

"But Noah was different. God liked what he saw in Noah." Genesis 6:8 (MSG)

"Noah was a pleasure to the Lord." Genesis 6:8 (TLB)

"God said to Noah, ' . . . out of everyone in this generation, you're the righteous one.'" Genesis 7:1 (MSG)

2. I MUST _____

"It was by faith that Noah heard God's warnings about things he could not yet see." Hebrews 11:7 (NCV)

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1 (NET)

"We don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever." 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT)

"Noah's belief in God was in direct contrast to the sin and disbelief of the rest of the world." Hebrews 11:7 (TLB)

"He walked faithfully with God." Genesis 6:9 (NIV)

"He walked in close fellowship with God." Genesis 6:9 (NLT)

"He lived in fellowship with God." Genesis 6:9 (GNT)

God told Noah, *"I'm going to send a flood that will destroy everything that breathes! Nothing will be left alive. But I solemnly promise that you, your wife, your sons, and your daughters-in-law will be kept safe in the boat."*
Genesis 6:17-18 (CEV)

3. I MUST _____

"He obeyed God and built a boat in which he and his family were saved."
Hebrews 11:7 (GNT)

"Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side . . . Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood . . . And be sure to take on board enough food for your family and for all the animals.' So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him."
Genesis 6:14-22 (NLT)

"Finally the day came when the Lord said to Noah, 'Go into the boat with all your family . . . Bring in the animals, too—a pair of each, except those kinds I have chosen for eating and for sacrifice: take seven pairs of each of them, and seven pairs of every kind of bird . . . Noah did everything the Lord commanded him.'" Genesis 7:1-5 (TLB)

"He always followed God." Genesis 6:9 (ERV)

"He tried always to conduct his affairs according to God's will."
Genesis 6:9 (TLB)

4. I MUST _____

"Noah was another who trusted God. When he heard God's warning about the future, Noah believed him even though there was no sign of a flood."
Hebrews 11:7 (TLB)

"By his faith, Noah showed that the world was wrong, and he became one of those who are made right with God through faith." Hebrews 11:7 (NCV)

"Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Genesis 6:8 (KJV)

Next Step

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