

outlineEpi2A17

“Pushing Against the Odds” based on Isaiah 49:1-7

Have you ever had to deal with failure? Have you faced disappointment and heartbreak? How did you deal with it, where did you find comfort and the resources to bounce back?

- OT lesson shows Isaiah’s lament: “I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.”

What do we learn from Isaiah’s frustration? The most important thing is that what we call ‘failure’ is really ‘preparation’.

- Story of Abraham Lincoln. Had more failure than success, yet became greatest leader in US history
- What we label failure is often just preparation.
- Failure often becomes a ‘prelude’ to prayer. We become closer to God which should be our ultimate goal.
- Story of the immovable ‘rock’. God calls us to be ‘faithful’, and God gives us strength to do the task. Opposition and failure result in making us stronger and more resilient.

Don’t give up, hang in there, ask what is being learned from experience, and pray that God will show you the way to a stronger relationship with God and the world!