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Mark Driscoll
Mars Hill Church
Seattle, WA

SESSION 1: RISK AND FAILURE

Quotes

“Failure is a leadership issue. A leadership issue is a Gospel issue. Ultimately, everything issue is a Gospel issue.”

“We were all made for righteousness, and we want to be righteous. Job 9:2 asks a good question, ‘How can a person be made righteous before God?’ ”

“Ministry flows not for righteousness, it flows *from* righteousness. You won’t need to use people, you can love people.”

“Take the risks God wants us to take, love the church and love the people that He calls us to lead.”

“You may just fail. Are you okay with that? You’ll still have Jesus. He is enough. Your righteousness will not be affected. If your righteousness is in Christ.”

Links

[Mars Hill Church](#)
[Acts 29 Network](#)

Select Books by Mark Driscoll

- [Confessions of a Reformission Rev.: Hard Lessons from an Emerging Missional Church](#)

- [Vintage Jesus: Timeless Answers to Timely Questions](#)
- [Death by Love: Letters from the Cross](#)

Notes

I. Righteousness

Works-righteousness is an effort to make ourselves righteous, either in religious or irreligious ways. We have a tendency to not base our righteousness on the Gospel, but on our own works. Consider these 4 questions:

1. Does success or failure affect how close you feel to God?
2. Does success or failure cause you to feel more or less holy?
3. Do changes of success or failure in any way alter how you see God?
4. If you have an alteration, does it change your perception of God? If attendance goes down, if someone doesn’t get healed, do you question the goodness of God? The power of God?

Works-righteousness pervades ministry life. Righteousness is very hard to measure, but we can measure attendance, giving, nickels and noses, etc.

The other alternative is **gift-righteousness**. Martin Luther calls this the theology of the cross. 2 Corinthians 5:21 describes this great exchange that changes everything.

II. Risk

Having the proper mindset about righteousness allow you to be able to take risk without fearing failure.

Having a works-righteousness mindset makes you risk-averse or risk-addictive because you don’t want to lose what they have or always want to have more, because Christ is not enough.

III. Repentance

We need to repent whenever we use people to achieve works-righteousness.

Change your Gospel value so that you stop pursuing your righteousness and rest in the righteousness of Christ.

Religious repentance repents with a religious motive so that God will help your works-righteousness.

Theology of the cross redefines repentance and failure, and renews the culture of your church, allows risk and repentance, because people understand the source of their righteousness.