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Tim Keller
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
New York City, NY

SESSION 1: RISK AND FAILURE

Quotes

“... in ministry, though we communicate we're saved by grace, we essentially base our significance, our self-worth... we base our salvation functionally in our hearts by how our ministry is doing. Therefore, our hearts are contradicting our message.”

“Until you experience significant failure in your personal life or ministry, you won't even know that your heart is functionally operating in contradiction to what you're saying with your mouth. And you certainly won't be in a position where you get those two things in line.”

“You've got to pound the Gospel into your heart every day, by grace, by prayer, until it catches fire.”

“The over-concern about success is the greatest way to fail. Though we say we believe the Gospel, we don't.”

Notes

Genesis 32:24-31

1. You've got to go after God for blessing.

- Jacob was searching for blessing all his life. And so do you. Every person needs someone from the outside to affirm you. You can't bless yourself.
- As Jacob wrestled with God, Jacob realizes what he's been looking for. “... this is the only place I can get the blessing. I don't care if it kills me.”
- We are looking for blessing in the wrong places.
- Until I existentially accessed the love of God for me, I didn't go to him for blessing. I'd gone to people for blessing.
- I looked for accountability and time management, but that didn't work. The very breath of life is to hear someone say, “Pastor, you've changed my life.” Human blessing never seems to last more than 5 minutes.
- Galatians 2:14, Paul confronts Peter's racism by saying that you don't really believe the Gospel. Stop contradicting your own Gospel.
- 2 things you'll get: you'll be blessed, and you'll walk with a limp.

2. You've got to let him lame you.

- You have to be humbled.
- You never learn how to pray through good times.
- You learn to pray in bad times.

Closing: John Newton's poem, “I asked the Lord that I might grow”

Links

[Redeemer Presbyterian Church](#)

Books by Timothy Keller:

[*The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*](#)

[*The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*](#)