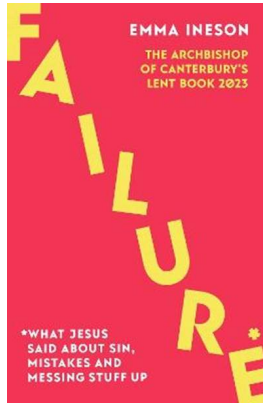


## Failure: 6 - How to fail really well



## Failure: 6 - How to fail really well

- Introduction
  - Heavy Topic, even for Lent
  - The beginning of living life in all its fullness



John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

2

## Live with the mess

- Inevitable consequence of living
- Teach failure
- Nothing is outside God's providential care



Genesis 1:2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3

## Make friends with the ordinary

- Extraordinary People
- Gladys Hopkins



Genesis 1:31a

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

4

## When you 'get up and go' has 'got up and gone'

- COVID and Apathy
- Acedia - exhaustion & listlessness born of grief & stress (Revelation 3:15)
- Remedy (Revelation 3:20)



Proverbs 13:12  
Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a  
longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

5

## In every season

- Regrets
- Ageing is a kind of failure
- Being the Adult



Romans 8:28  
We know that in all things God works for  
the good of those who love him, who have  
been called according to his purpose.

6

## Fail widely (learn to make different kinds of mistakes)

- Failure to learn from failure
- Learning from the failure of others
- Want to put things right



1 Corinthians 10:12  
Whoever thinks he is standing securely  
should watch out so he doesn't fall.

7

## Know your besetting sins

- Character flaws
- Self awareness
- Conscious and unconscious biases
- 'Holy friendships'



Hebrews 12:1b  
let us throw off everything that hinders and  
the sin that so easily entangles

8

## Allow others to fail

- What? You too?
- Forgive
- Sharing our failures
- Patience



Hebrews 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the **outcome** of their way of life and **imitate their faith**.

9

## Know how to lose an argument

- Arguing well
- Beliefs are ...



Romans 1:21-22 For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God ... <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools

10

## Feel the fear and do it anyway

- Fear of failure
- Church Planter



Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

11

## Play the fool

- Humour helps
- Truth telling



1 Corinthians 1:25a For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom

12

## Failure is never final

- All the heroes have failed
- Reconstruction



Revelation 21:3-4

“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

13

## Conclusion

- A Final failure (for tonight)

14

## Questions

- 1) What relationship do you see between the mess of your life and God's providence?
- 2) How do you learn from failure and how is this connected to awareness of your besetting sins?
- 3) How does the suggestion to accept others' failure but not to define them by their failure appeal to you?  
What would the consequences of this be in your life?

15