

What is Success?

We live in a world that idolizes success, especially in sport. Winners gain fame, fortune, followers, and influence, while coming second is often dismissed as failure. Society measures success by wealth, status, and recognition, but God defines it differently.

Jeremiah's life illustrates this. For forty years he proclaimed God's word, yet no one listened. He was rejected, imprisoned, thrown into a pit, and forced into exile. He lived in poverty and isolation, even forbidden to marry. By human standards, he failed. Yet in God's eyes, Jeremiah was a great success because he was faithful, obedient, and courageous in his calling. Despite rejection and anguish, Jeremiah proclaimed God's message: repent and turn back to Him. He announced both God's judgment and the coming new covenant, fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist followed the same path, preaching repentance and preparing the way for the Messiah. He was dismissed by some, murdered by others - yet Jesus declared him the greatest born of women. Even Jesus, who brought the gospel of salvation, was seen by the world as a failure, rejected and crucified. But in God's plan, He perfectly fulfilled His mission and became our Saviour.

Their lives teach us that true success is not measured by applause or comfort but by faithfulness to God's call. As Samuel reminds us, "The Lord does not look at the things people look at... the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7). And Micah declares that God requires us "to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him" (Mic. 6:8).

Success in God's eyes means obedience, integrity, and fruitfulness for His kingdom - living so that one day we may hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant."