

Tuesday, 17 November 2020 -- Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

Good morning! Your Monday morning inspiration for the week on the belated day of Tuesday! Along those lines, a reading from the letter of James: "We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check" (James 3:2).

As a whole, we tend to view mistakes ("stumblings") in one way: negatively. They are to be avoided, and if they happen, mistakes are looked upon unfavorably. Certainly, in the occasions that such a mistake hurts the community or a relationship, then this is the case; we should strive to hold up & strengthen community at all times.

But mistakes are not always bad. In the spirit of exploration and experimentation, mistakes (or rather, unintended/unexpected outcomes) are a natural part of the process. It means that we are trying something, pushing boundaries, engaged in learning what works and what doesn't in new contexts.

A colleague recently shared that he encourages his staff in ministry to "Fail Fast. Fail Often. And Fail Forward." By "failing fast" we are trying new things quickly to see if there's any aspect to give more energy and attention to; by "failing often" we are unafraid to have an idea or ministry endeavor not work the way we desire, and to not be discouraged by that; and by "failing forward" we are keeping always in front of our eyes the ultimate goal of ministry: proclaiming the good news of Christ. Even if we fail, if we fail in that direction, we have gained ground.

Prayer: Lord, in this week as I follow your Spirit and work for your Kingdom, may I have the courage to fail fast, fail often, and fail forward, for your glory. Amen.