

Plan B

Failure

Luke 22:33 Peter said, “Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you.” (NLT)

Luke 22:56-62 A servant girl noticed him in the firelight and began staring at him. Finally she said, “This man was one of Jesus’ followers!” ⁵⁷ But Peter denied it. “Woman,” he said, “I don’t even know him!” ⁵⁸ After a while someone else looked at him and said, “You must be one of them!” “No, man, I’m not!” Peter retorted. ⁵⁹ About an hour later someone else insisted, “This must be one of them, because he is a Galilean, too.” ⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord’s words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.” ⁶² And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly. (NLT)

1. Everybody fails

2. You are not a failure

Six responses to failure

1. *Blow up.*
2. *Cover up.*
3. *Speed up.*
4. *Back up.*
5. *Give up.*

Matthew 27:3-5 When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders. ⁴ “I have sinned,” he declared, “for I have betrayed an innocent man.” “What do we care?” they retorted. “That’s your problem.” ⁵ Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself. (NLT)

6. *Get up.*

Proverbs 24:16 The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked. (NLT)

3. Failure is not final

Luke 22:34 But Jesus said, “Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.” (NLT)

Luke 22:31-32 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat.
³² But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.” (NLT)

Mark 16:6-7 but the angel said, “Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. 7 Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.” (NLT)

4. God uses us in spite of our failures.

Acts 2:41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. (NLT)