



In a tantalizing [article](#) before Steve Jobs' death, Nick Schulz observed that "*Jobs failed better than anyone else in Silicon Valley, maybe better than anyone in corporate America. By that I mean that Jobs did what only the greatest entrepreneurs can do: learn from their failures. I don't mean learn from their mistakes. I mean learn from their abject, humiliating, bonehead, epic fails.*"

Schulz points out that everyone remembers the I-everything that Jobs created while transforming personal computing and more. But no one, NO ONE, remembers the colossal blunders, actual *failures* he botched, one of which led to his being fired from the very company he founded.

He concludes, "*All those successes were made possible by failure after failure and the lessons learned from those failures. There is a moral here for a Washington culture that fears failure too much....Steve Jobs is a reminder that failure is a good and necessary thing. And that sometimes the greatest glories are born of catastrophe.*"

The title of another recent [article](#) tells the same tale: "*Better Ideas Through Failure -- Companies Reward Employee Mistakes to Spur Innovation, Get Back Their Edge.*"

I'm thinking that it's not just 'the Washington culture that fears failure too much.' It's us too -- the Church. And, more to the point, it's ME (to be consciously ungrammatical). Maybe the reason we see the Lord do so little through us is because our fear drives us away from big risks. Risking relationships in evangelism, risking the American dream in sacrificial ministry, risking giving our kids to the Lord's agenda instead of ours, risking smaller numbers by focusing more on people than on polished programs.

No one likes to fail; no one sets out to fail. But we of all people have the freedom in Christ faithfully to serve him knowing that it is he who creates success, however measured.

I wonder if I don't need to take a cue from Steve Jobs and come back to just how big the gospel and my God really is. A really big God means I can take really big risks. And that "failure" may just not be the deal breaker I've long thought it to be.

After all, when I think again of Jesus on the cross, Schulz is right. "*Sometimes the greatest glories are born of catastrophe.*"

Let me know what you think. Or if you want to talk about this, church planting, or anything.

Yours for Kingdom extension,

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