

## LOVE DOES – Free to Fail (Mark 9:14-23)

February 2, 2020

Pastor Augie Iadicicco

When you love someone, it can be difficult to watch them make foolish choices. And yet, sometimes love lets others learn from their mistakes because love wants to encourage people to take responsibility for their own actions. Jesus lets His disciples make mistakes not so He can condemn them, but so that He can grow them.

*Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. – Luke 22:60*

*Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to You. He has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked Your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn’t.” – Mark 9:17-18*

### Two kinds of failure we experience:

P \_\_\_\_\_.

Mark 6:7

P \_\_\_\_\_.

Mark 9:21-22

*Jesus said to him, “If you can’t? Everything is possible for the one who believes.” – Mark 9:23*

### Four Lessons on Failure:

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 3:23, 1 John 1:8

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

Leviticus 6:2-5

Therefore, we need to: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

*once he has sinned and acknowledged his guilt – he must return what he stole or defrauded ... – Leviticus 6:4*

3. \_\_\_\_\_.

Mark 9:25-27, John 21:15-19

4. \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Mark 9:29

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

### Questions for individual or group reflection:

Have you ever failed at something in a big way? Share what happened if you choose to.

What are some failures of Jesus’ disciples that you can think of? (see Luke 22:60, and Mark 9:14-18.)

Do you think God allows us to fail? Does He cause us to fail? What makes you say that?

Bob Goff has said, “We are no longer defined by our failures. We are defined by Christ.” What does that mean to you? And do you agree?

What do we typically do instead of admitting our failures?

What is the down-side of pretending to be someone you’re not?

How does God free us to live beyond our failure? (See John 21:15-19)

What do you believe God has restored you for (as Jesus restored Peter)?

What would you do for God if you knew you could not fail?

***Pray: Heavenly father we are grateful for You. Left to our own devices we would be hopeless and helpless and yet you, through your mighty power, work miraculously in our lives to bring about incredible victory. Lord, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for your love that is at work in our lives every day. And Lord allow that love to sink in so deeply and do completely that we love the people around us like you first loved us. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.***

### Do:

- Think of an activity you know you’re not very good at or is challenging for you ... then *do it* (per Bob Goff)!
- Dance where others can see you.
- Do something to put God’s Love into action, believing that even if you fail, God will be glorified through you. Go for it!
- Let go of your past failures and let Christ re-commission you for His service!

### Memory Verse

*But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. – 1 Corinthians 1:27*

*This message uses materials provided The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.*





# LOWE

*Does*

*Free to Fail*





NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

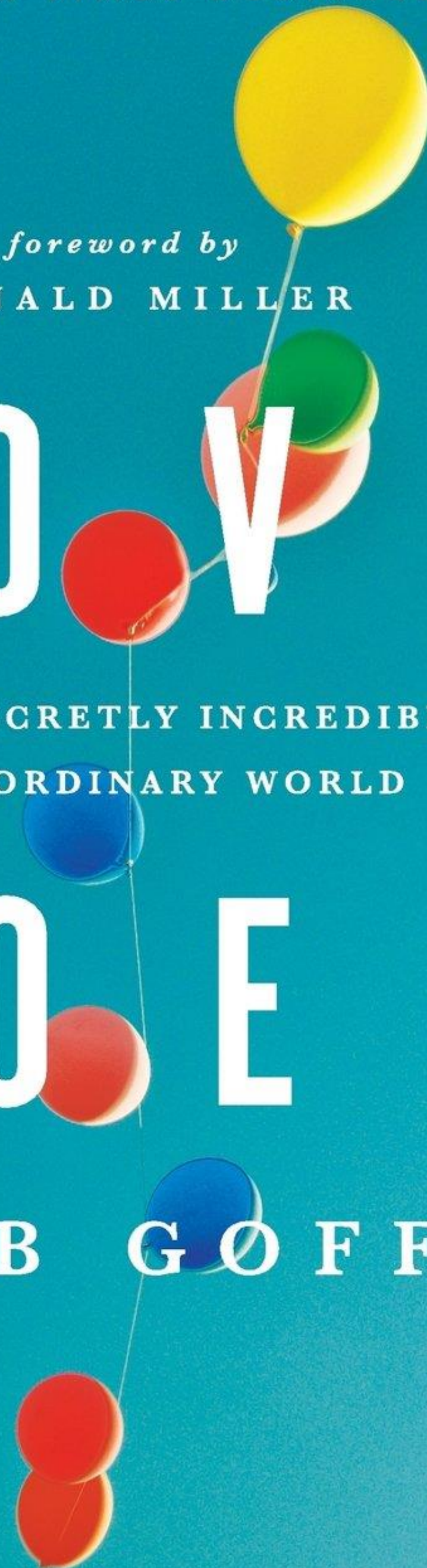
*foreword by*  
DONALD MILLER

LOVE

DISCOVER A SECRETLY INCREDIBLE LIFE  
IN AN ORDINARY WORLD

DOES

BOB GOFF



Again Jesus said,  
*“Simon son of John, do you love me?”*  
He answered, *“Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”*  
Jesus said, *“Take care of my sheep.”*

**John 21:16**

*Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed*

**Luke 22:60**

<sup>14</sup> When Jesus, Peter, James, and John came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes disputing with them. <sup>15</sup> When the whole crowd saw Jesus, they were amazed and ran to greet Him. <sup>16</sup> He asked them, “What are you arguing with them about?”

**Mark 9:14-16**

<sup>17</sup> Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to You. He has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. <sup>18</sup> Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked Your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn’t.”

**Mark 9:17-18**



# Professional ...

Calling the Twelve to Him, He began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

– Mark 6:7

# Personal ...

<sup>21</sup> “How long has this been happening to him?” Jesus asked his father. “From childhood,” he said. <sup>22</sup> “And many times it has thrown him into fire or water to destroy him.”

– Mark 9:21-22

<sup>22</sup> “But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, “‘If you can’? Everything is possible for the one who believes.”

**Mark 9:22-23**

#1

4 Lessons  
On Failure

Failure happens.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

**Romans 3:23**

If we say, “We have no sin,” we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**1 John 1:8**

# #2

4 Lessons  
On Failure

Failure hurts – us  
and others.

We need to ask: *“How have I hurt you?”*



We need to ask: *“How have I hurt you?”*

We need to apologize.

We need to ask: *“How have I hurt you?”*

We need to apologize.

We need to make amends.

#3

4 Lessons  
On Failure

Failure isn't the final word.

For God, our failure is an event  
not an identity.

<sup>25</sup> Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you: Come out of him and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup> Then it came out, shrieking and throwing him into terrible convulsions. The boy became like a corpse, so that many said, “He’s dead.” <sup>27</sup> But Jesus, taking him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up.

**Mark 9:25-27**

#4

4 Lessons  
On Failure

Failure is a  
powerful teacher.

<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. <sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)**

“This kind can come out only by prayer.”

**Mark 9:29**



#1

4 Lessons  
On Failure

Failure happens.

# #2

4 Lessons  
On Failure

Failure hurts – us  
and others.

#3

4 Lessons  
On Failure

Failure isn't the final word.

#4

4 Lessons  
On Failure

Failure is a  
powerful teacher.



# LOWE

*Does*

*Free to Fail*

