

Put Out into the Deep

Irwin Shaw – playwright, novelist, and short-story author – wrote a piece entitled *The Eighty-Yard Run*.

As a college freshman, at his first football practice, he broke loose for an 80-yard touchdown run. His teammates looked at him with awe.

His coach said, “You’re going to have quite a future around here.” His girlfriend awarded him with a kiss after the practice.

Irwin Shaw had the feeling that life is completely satisfying and rewarding.

But nothing in the rest of his life ever lived up to that day again. His football experience was equally disappointing. His marriage soured. The pain of failure was even greater because he remembered thinking on a perfect day many years before that life would *always* be that pleasant, satisfying and rewarding.

Life does not stand still. There isn’t a once-for-all experience. It was Winston Churchill who said, “Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It is courage that counts.”

There are going to be bad days. Sometimes we are going to fall on our respective faces. These failures don’t have to be endings. They can be the avenues to experience God’s grace more widely and deeply.

On one occasion, Jesus got into a boat and taught some defeated fishermen an important lesson. When crowds were pressing around Him to hear His teaching, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret and saw two boats by the lake.

Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, He asked him to put out a little from the land. Jesus sat down in the boat and taught the people from the boat.

And when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking (Luke 5:4-6 ESV).

Put out into the deep! Our lives are often fenced in by low expectations. The worst sin is to aim too low.

– Beecher Hunter