

Greetings to all the Saints at Manatee Life,

**SCRIPTURE:**

Romans 15:4 (NIV) – Larger reading: Romans 15: 1-13

*“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”*

**STORY:** (from “If It Ain’t Broke, Break It,” by Robert Crag, page 194)

When UCLA’s legendary basketball coach John Wooden introduced the fast-break to college basketball, his team committed the highest number of turnovers and fouls in memory. But Wooden knew “mistakes were part of the learning.” He expected them, and “knew that every opportunity for failure was equally an opportunity for success.” Wooden’s teams went on to perfect the fast-break offense used today by nearly every team in the nation. His teams also won 10 national collegiate championships in 12 years, one of the most remarkable team achievements in all of sports history.

**OBSERVATION:**

We all make mistakes. Our lives are scattered with the bits and pieces of those mistakes. There are individuals who delight in reminding us of our mistakes. But, mistakes are a part of life.

Learning from our mistakes is another matter. Evidently, some lessons are harder to learn than others because we just keep making the same mistakes over and over and over again ... or at least I do.

A word here ... an act there ... an ill-timed comment ... and, bingo, another mistake has been made.

But mistakes are the building blocks of tomorrow’s successes. We just have to learn what God and life is trying to teach us. If we don’t, we will be visiting this situation again and again until we have learned the lesson needed to move us on to the next level of our spiritual journey ... our Faith Journey ... and therein lies our hope!

**QUOTE:**

*“Failure is instructive. The person who really thinks learns quite as much from his failures as from his successes.”* – John Dewey

**PRAYER:**

Dear Lord, we have to admit making mistakes is painful, learning life’s lessons is painful, growing mentally, spiritually and emotionally is painful, growing is painful ... but keep pursuing us until we have learned the lesson. We want to grow in you ... so help us, even when we become stubborn. In the name of the great teacher, Jesus. Amen.

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim  
Jmartin450@tampabay.rr.com  
386-795-5323

***Let me state again – you are invited to come to the sanctuary for the recording of our Worship Service on Wednesday morning. There are some restrictions: Must call the office by Tuesday to reserve a spot; limited to 12 people; enter the North parking lot door; wear a mask; no cell phones; no whispering; no getting up to go to the bathroom once the recording starts; need to arrive by 10:30; if you wish to sing a hymnal should be picked up in the office earlier.***

- 
- 
- 
- 

