Which is our definition of failure? Or victory? In today’s days this definitions as many others are being distorted by the society in which we are living or the general idea or example we follow.

Let’s see a verse in Matthew 10:39

“He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”

We see that in this verse is mentioned the word “lose”. It is speaking about lost.

 In the world in which we live today and the idea with which we grow is that we mustn’t never give up, we have to be first in everything and this in general might not be wrong, but depends on how we look at it. We also have some examples or role models to follow. We are surrounded by famous personalities like sportsmen, actors, singers, writers of which we hear in the media that in a way set up the example we have to follow in life. We choose whom to follow, but in general most of the persons set examples that maybe we can never achieve. There are good as well as wrong examples, but if they are set up by someone with a name, they become role models for us. Many times people see that they can not achieve something and they get even frustrated. Not every one wants to follow what is right or be himself, but rather what the society or modern culture tells him.

 In part all of us can follow certain things of what the society is showing us, but our way of life must be founded on what is right and we need to follow it, no matter what everyone else is doing and following. In general we’ve been taught to never give up and always win, but maybe what we need to do sometimes is to lose or better said to surrender and accept our failure. Meaning that we accept and acknowledge what we are. The gospel tells us that we need to lose our life, so that we can gain it. “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.” Mark 8:35 To lose the life means that we have to lose our own way, our own ego, so that we can gain what is from God. We need to do this as most of the times our own ways and ego can actually harm us, as they are not always and most of the times right.

 There are many motivational speakers in todays days, but maybe we don’t always need to be motivated, but to realize that we can’t make it in our own way. Obviously people realizing this, but without putting their trust in something higher, which is God, can just lose hope and end up in the wrong way. But nevertheless the fact is that we need to realize that we can’t make it and go to God for answers. In a way, we have already failed. We just need to accept it. Jesus came for those who were sick, (Luke 5:31,32) meaning for those who could acknowledge their need of Him. It is not that the rest of people don’t have any need, they just can’t see it.

The point is to see that the victory belongs to Him, that He brings it to our life.

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Romans 8:37

 We are more than conquerors **in Him**, not in ourselves. What we need to do is to accept our failure and to surrender to Him. In this way we avoid frustrations. When we are trying to achieve something with our own strength and we are under pressure and we maybe see that we can’t make it as we know we don’t have enough capabilities or strength. It’s ok, we just need to accept it. We can’t. We fail. But this is the moment to turn to Him and surrender and tell Him: “God, I can’t anymore, I am weak, help me, please!” He came to take our failure, He died to redeem us. This is the difference of when we expect something by our own strength and when we trust in Him. We need to lose, so that He can win in our life, so that He can give us the victory.

The next time when the devil or some voice tells you that you failed, you can tell him: “Yes it is true. I failed, but the victory is not found in me, but in Him who died for me and overcame everything including the death. This is Jesus Christ.”

We can see another verse in Romans 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

 From this verse is shown to us that all things work together for good to those who love God and being called according to His purpose. Loving God means that we will not willingly look for failure or trouble to come into our life, but if it happens, then this could work for something good and for His glory. We can see the story of Samson for example. (Judges 14-16) When trouble came to His life and he was captured by his enemies (Judges 16:18-31), was the time when he prayed to God and in that moment He gave him strength and he managed to kill more of his and God’s enemies than ever before. There were many other situations in the Bible where we see things working for good to people after trouble came to their lives. The story of Job for example. He was attacked by Satan and it looked like he lost everything, but by going through these situations, he came to know better God and was blessed more than ever before. All of this happens because the victory belongs to God. It was obtained by the death and resurrection of Jesus on the cross.

 Going back in the verse saying: “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”, we have to see what the previous verses say:

“As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Romans 8:36

So, we see that we are more than conquerors even in these situations through Him who loved us.

 There is also the parable of the talents in Mathew 25:14-30. This parable represents a story in which a man departed to a far country. Before going he called his servants and gave them talents with which they can deal while waiting for his return. To one he gave five, to another two and to another one talent. We see that the last one having received one talent only, dug in the ground and hid the talent given to him. (Mathew 25:18) This displeased his master. Why is that gives us an example exactly with the servant receiving one talent only? Because with this parable is shown to us that even if we’ve got a little strength or we think we’ve got a little we can still make something out of it and we are accountable in front of God. Many times we might be thinking that as we don’t have a lot, then it is not worth it to try and do something with it. We say that this is for the ‘others that have more, for the others that can make a bigger impact. As we have a little, then we will not make enough. But how do we know that? If God is telling us that with little He can do a lot, that He can help those with little strength.

 We can see a lack of faith here. Just imagine if all the great preachers and men of God were left alone to do everything because the rest of the believers would think that they can never do enough, as they are not like the others. Surely there won’t be a great result for the gospel then. Because God uses everyone in the exact way and the exact moment He wants and everyone is important for Him and His kingdom.

 What am I saying with all of this, is that the person with one talent only feared failure before even starting. That’s why this parable gives us an example with this person, because we can easily think that we have a little and we will not make it. But this is exactly where the faith comes in. Didn’t David killed Goliath the giant with one small stone only? He accomplished something so great having something so little.

 The person having received one talent only didn’t actually accept his failure, but feared that he can fail and that’s why he tried to find a way in which wouldn’t seem so. (Matthew 25:24,25)

 But here is actually where the change comes in. When we accept that we will fail, we recognize it and we do something else, looking for a different way and trying to trust in Him for more strength and wisdom. We see instead this person trying to cover this and to make the things look like nothing happened, like he did the right thing by hiding his talent. He was probably also looking too much at the others thinking that he will never be like them or have their abilities. He was having a wrong way of view of what a victory was. This is what we mustn’t do – to look at the others and to have our own idea of what a victory or success might be. We have to have His idea and view of what a victory is instead. His way. The secret is to trust Him and follow Him at every step. Then even our failures will turn into victories for Him, because we trusted in Him. It is better sometimes to fail attempting to do God’s will than being stuck and falling into sin. It obviously can happen to anyone. Persons don’t attempt to do what God commands them, because they think they will fail, but there are many other things in which we can fail staying and relaxing in our places or in our comfort zone.

As we said before, the person with one talent only was probably looking at the others and comparing and measuring himself with that. All of us can often look at the others instead of looking us and our relationship with God. We look at them and then maybe we get frustrated that we can’t achieve what they achieve, but the fact is that God wants to make a unique work in us, a work of His master hand that only He is capable of. This is what we can be in His hands. God’s treatment and work in us is personal. He is personal for us even if we are having the same faith as the other brothers and sisters in Christ. The way we look at this and our relationship with Him will also determine if we are going really to succeed by accomplishing **His will**.