

Failing at success

1 Kings 20

- I. Ahab ignored God's power when he needed help (1 Kings 20:1-12).
 - A. He reacted to threat with cowardice (1-4)
 - B. He reacted to more threat with pride (5-12)

- II. Ahab ignored God's glory when God promised and gave him victory (1 Kings 20:13-30).
 - A. A prophet promised Ahab God would give him victory so Ahab would glorify God (20:13-14).
 - B. Israel's small army defeated the Arameans (20:15-22).
 - C. When the Arameans thought God was finite, a prophet promised another victory (20:23-28).
 - D. Israel's small army defeated the Arameans again (29-30).

- III. Ahab ignored God's will when God wanted him to finish the job (1 Kings 20:31-43).
 - A. Ahab let King Ben-Hadad go free (20:31-34).
 - B. A prophet condemned Ahab for releasing the enemy God determined should die (20:35-43).

How to fail when God gives success

1. When I'm afraid and desperate, I'll NOT seek God's help.
 - *I'll react according to my emotions and handle it myself.*
2. When God promises and I succeed, I'll NOT give him glory.
 - *I'll bask in the success and silently take credit.*
3. When serving God, I'll NOT do it His way.
 - *I'll do God's work, but do it my way or how others want.*