

## *62. Down And Out --- But Not Finished*

In 1938 Hitler had taken Austria and declared that cafes and bars could stay open till 3 am so a boxing match in Madison Square Garden could be heard. The German heavyweight Schmeling, who had formerly knocked out the USA young black boxer, Joe Lewis in the 12 round of a title fight, proudly advanced to the ring the toast of the Nazi propaganda machine. A white man would again humiliate the sub class black boxer. And the representative of fascism would cover the weak champion of democracy. Last time men and women cried and sobbed in despair at the loss. Would the humiliation be repeated?

Lewis threw 41 punches in a barrage of attack, 31 connected and cracked vertebrae in the German. In his ambulance ride through Harlem he heard people chanting the name "JOE LEWIS" and all the celebration music. The entire fight had lasted but two minutes.

When you are knocked down on the ring floor and experience failure what do you do? The Bible doesn't promise a string of victories. Joseph was convicted of a false rape charge and put in prison. He ended up as prime minister in his comeback act. The disciples hid in locked rooms after the crucifixion and spoke in whispers. Only the women dared come out. But when the disciples did come out (Acts 2:1-47), the comeback affected all the nations of the world. Fairytale magic doesn't produce a comeback. A sombre getting before God, retooling, repenting, retraining and download of new Holy Spirit power are the requisites of success. A new person has to step out of the cauldron of failure. The old one failed. The metamorphosis involves the pain of training and the surgery of transformation. David's kingdom fell into chaos as a result of his sin; the Psalms record his self pity and complaining. He worked a comeback. Sister Mary McKillop in Australia, Martin Luther in Germany, Martin Luther King in the USA all got up off their tails when knocked down and out, regrouped and changed the world. There is a community of people counting on you, a generation of children yet to be born, who all count on you to seek God for your comeback matches. He provides the empowering and resources. You provide the will, and a heart that depends on God.



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6StIjEli\\_vU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6StIjEli_vU)

well worth watching, the pre match propaganda and then the short fight.

Myler, Patrick (2005).

[\*Ring of Hate: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling: The Fight of the Century.\* Arcade](#)

[www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)