



The People of the King



Are Losers

Philippians 3:1-11

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh--⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:⁵ circumcised on the eighth day,



Philippians 3:1-11

of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ



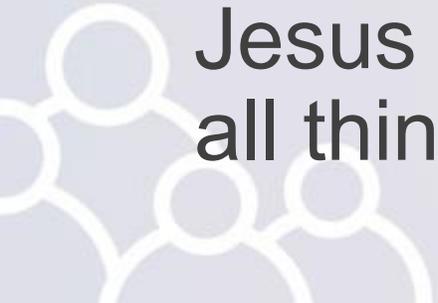
Philippians 3:1-11

⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



What Paul Chose to Lose

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish...



What Paul Gained

...in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



My Losses

I look forward to my next loss because I know Jesus will work in it to transform me into a more faithful Jesus-follower, which is what I want more than anything else.



Covid Losses

- Loss of our community gathering together
- Loss of all the support I receive from being part of this church



Covid Losses

- Friends, mentors, leaders chose to leave our church for a variety of reasons
- This was a great loss



Our Losses

- We are a body
- Our life with Jesus happens in community
- Our sisters and brothers in Jesus are necessary for our life with Jesus



Knowing Christ and Being Transformed

- Paul considered everything he had accomplished as garbage
- He invited God's total renovation of his heart, his mind, his life
- In Jesus there is no loss without transformation



Knowing Christ and Being Transformed

We are the kind of losers who *choose* to lose everything in order to know Jesus



Steps to Take When Experiencing Transforming Losses

- Notice when you're feeling unsettled
- Understand that you may be experiencing your false self
- Understand how your false self is holding you back
- Understand that fear, anger, pride, or stubbornness signals the death of part of something that *used to be* important
- Remember what Jesus said...



What Jesus Said

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 16:24-25 ESV)



Steps to Take When in Transforming Loss

- Notice when you're feeling unsettled
- Understand that you may be experiencing your false self
- Understand how your false self is holding you back
- Understand that fear, anger, pride, or stubbornness signals the death of part of something that *used to be* important
- Remember what Jesus said...
- Discard garbage, choose to follow Jesus



When All You Can See Is the Loss

Remember:

- God created us to enjoy deep and eternal relationship with him.
- God loves and cares for us and he will never stop.
- In Jesus, there is no death without resurrection, no loss without transformation



Bible Study Tip

Don't focus on or become obsessed with what you don't know, rather remember and cling to what you do know



Invitation

1. Find a place where you can sit alone with God.
2. Ask God to show you how he's working in your life and what losses will ensue. Or remember a time in the past when you lost a part of your false self.
3. Ponder those losses. Pay attention to them. Feel them. See how important they are—and then choose to lose your plans, your dreams, your security, your safety.
4. Ask God to give you a glimpse of the new you he's creating, of the joy that is to come when you see how God is transforming you.
5. Say goodbye to what you're losing and thank God for what new things he's building in you.





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