

# LOSING TO GAIN

John 12:23-25

23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

## 1. SEEKING TO RALLY THE TROOPS.

### 1. *Three yards from the goal.*

1. We don't want to fumble the ball.
2. If we don't cross the goal line, all the blood, sweat, and tears will be in vain.

### 2. *The challenge is here.*

1. God is saying, are you willing to give 110%?
2. All individual achievements worth nothing if the team doesn't win.
  1. This is not an individual endeavor; it is team effort for one common goal.
  2. Laying it all on the line for the sake of the team.
  3. Taking a Ahit@ for the team.
3. Can't let anything stop you.
  1. Ye did run well, who did hinder.
  2. We are not ignorant of his devices.
4. It's the team with the extra that will win.

### 3. *What will it cost?*

1. Everything.
2. Cost even your life.

## 2. OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIG.

### 1. *Need for significance.*

### 2. *Desire to contribute.*

### 3. *Self-gratifying, self-indulging, self-serving, self-centered generation.*

1. Little desire for sacrifice.
2. This generation knows little about sacrifice.
3. I will give the Lord no thing that costs me nothing.

### 4. *Jesus gave His all.*

1. He died that we might live.
2. He gave Himself for us.
3. He who knew no sin became sin that we might become the righteousness of God.
  1. Had he not become sin, he would have no need of righteousness.
  2. Because he was declared righteous, so are we.
  3. Because he paid the debt, we can go free.
4. Though he was rich, he became poor so that through his poverty we might become rich.

## 3. HOW TO KEEP YOUR LIFE.

### 1. *He who loves his life shall lose it.*

### 2. *He who hates his life shall gain it.*

1. Losing what you have to gain something bigger.
2. We have to let go what we have to gain what we don't have.

## 4. I WILL GLORY IN NOTHING BUT THE CROSS.

### 1. *The cross was Jesus' gain.*

1. Restore unto me the glory I had with you...
2. We want the glory without the pain.
3. AGet all you can; can all you get@ mentality.
4. We desire a Afeel good@ soft gospel; make me feel good.
5. Without the cross there would be no glory.
6. Jesus endured the cross despising the shame.

2. ***The cross is anything standing between you and the glory.***

3. ***I am crucified with Christ...***

4. ***Significance of the cross.***

1. Denial of self desire, self determination, self gratification, self-centered goals.

2. If you want a better marriage, you must consider the cross.

1. Ridding of selfishness.

2. Sacrificing what I want, need, desire.

3. Willingness to sacrifice for the better of the other.

4. Husband has no right to sacrifice family for selfish desires.

5. Wife has no right to have demands met at expense of husband and family.

5. DYING TO REPRODUCE YOURSELF.

1. ***Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and dies, it abides alone.***

2. ***Who shall declare his generation?***

1. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

2. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

3. ***There was barrenness before the cross.***

6. DEATH IS SOWING YOURSELF INTO SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF.

1. ***Give up yourself for the benefit of the whole.***

2. Being swallowed up by the whole.

1. Loss of self-identity.

2. Doesn't matter who gets recognition.

3. Doesn't matter who gets the credit.

4. Doesn't matter who's in charge.

3. ***Getting lost in a bigger vision.***

1. Making your contributions to the whole.

2. Willingness to forego your limited vision for a bigger vision.

1. Sacrifice of your ministry.

2. Less interested in your ambition for the sake of a larger impact.

3. Together we can do more than all of us working independently.

7. INVESTMENTS FOR ETERNAL REWARDS.

1. Investing into the Kingdom.

2. Sowing into good soil.

3. Laying up treasures in heavenly trust fund.

4. Time to invest in Amutual trust funds.@