

“If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.” Mark 8:35 NLT

lectio // Mark 8:34-9:1

The great conundrum! The mystery of a puzzling, difficult question, a riddle that makes you think - really think! What happens when you TRY to hang on to your life? Jesus does not say, “oh, you might lose it,” or “it’s tough to do,” or “some make it.” He says, YOU WILL LOSE IT. Save me a sentence and go back and re-read that! WAIT! Clarification, this is only if you are a follower of Christ. If you’re not a follower, a believer in the plan God chose to fix all of our lives, then by-all-means, do what you want. Live it up, make money, do what feels good, follow your “truth” or whatever cool and flashy, convenient “truth” that comes along. Be selfish, throw out the rules, follow your dreams - do whatever you desire. Because you will need to cram ALL of your entire existence into this life. And when it’s over, you’ll answer to God anyways, except that he’ll hold you and only you responsible for rejecting Jesus. But IF you are a follower, this TRUTH, his truth will happen. And I can’t ignorantly choose both, I hang on to what I want and lose everything or I LOSE my decisions, dreams and desires to what God wants and SAVE my very life in Christ. When I give, I gain. But that’s not even my puzzle, my mystery. Here’s my issue, “what if everything I have came from him in the first place?” I would HAVE nothing, BE nothing without God. So now I am faced with a slightly different question, “Should I consciously, consistently, CONTINUOUSLY, lose the life God has given me, to gain the life he wants for me? Answer: YES.

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Dad,

It was NOT hard to receive your goodness, your kindness of favor and blessing to have a marriage, a family, a good reputation and even a little money. However, it became much harder to “lose” or give up those things to you over a lifetime. Because as I have gained, I began to enjoy the “ownership” of those blessings. Your word challenges me, reminds me that I am NOT an owner, I am a steward, a manager. Once again, I am at a place to lose my life to you and I am trusting you just like in the beginning.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root