

When Loss Is Gain

*Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me,
he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
For whoever wants to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel
will save it."*

(Mark 8:34-35, NIV)

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before him
endured the cross, scorning its shame, and
sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men,
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

(Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV)

Jesus calls all His followers to sacrifice themselves
as He sacrificed Himself.

He laid down His life "for the joy set before him".
He freely submitted to the cross, "scorning its shame";
that is, He viewed the shame of the cross as insignificant,
unworthy of consideration.

He modeled this definition of sacrifice:
to turn loose of something good
in order to grasp something greater.
This is the sacrifice to which our Lord calls us.

Listen and sing:

Hymn: *Lay Aside Your Passing Pleasures*

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