

Winning and Losing in the Game of Life

Matthew 16:24-27

What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? —Matthew 16:26

Today's 1st Simple Truth:

It's not whether you win or lose but _____

1. Lessons from a Disillusioned Teacher

The Teacher of Ecclesiastes pursued wealth, then pleasure, and then wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 2:9-11

Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun (vs. 11).

Ecclesiastes a **corrective** to the way people look at winning and losing.

Ecclesiastes 2:24

A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God.

2nd Simple Truth: Recognize every day as a **gift**, a moment to experience life.

Ecclesiastes 4:7-10

"Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: ⁸There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless— a miserable business!" (vs. 7-8)

People come before possessions or positions.

2. Lessons from the Greatest Teacher

Matthew 16:24-27

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it (vs. 25).

Lose and find one's life.

What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? (vs. 26)

Forfeits one's soul.

yuch psoo-khay' = English psyche. Means—breath, breath of life, life, soul

3rd Simple Truth: It is possible to gain the whole world and lose your life.

How can we not lose our soul?

Answer: *Deny self, take up your cross, and follow Jesus.*

3. Eulogy: What is Your Life Lesson?

When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back into the Box —John Ortberg

In the Sara Tucholsky story, who won? Western Oregon or Central Washington?

Do you like the lesson you are writing with your life?