

# A Near Death Experience

- Most of us have had a moment in our life where we thought we were going to die.
- At that moment everything else receded into the background.
- Everything that had seemed so important to us before that moment became unimportant
- Only one thing mattered then ... our soul and our relationship with God!

# When Near Death becomes Death

- One day in the future what will begin as a near death experience will end in death.
- We can only choose our preparation.
- *“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Mk. 8:34-37*

# Our Life & Our Soul

- *whoever desires to **save his life** (psuche)\* **will lose it**, \*psuche= breath, life, soul. breath of life*
- *but whoever loses his life (psuche) for My sake and the gospel's will save it.*
- **Jesus Concluded**
- *For what will it profit a man if he **gains** the whole world, and **loses** his own soul (psuche)?*
- *what will a man give in exchange for his soul (psuche)?”*
- **The emotions of His words echo that of our own feelings during a “near death” moment.**

# If We Want....

- If we want Jesus to intervene at the last moment of a near death experience and “*save our soul*” as it leaves our body at death.
- We must “*come after Him,*” “*deny ourselves,*” “*take up our cross*” and “*follow Him*” now.
- Many people interpret these things to their own relative level of commitment.
- Jesus demands absolute/total commitment.
- commitment that leads to losing our own life
- *loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s*

# Losing Our Life for Him

- *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1Jn. 2:15-17*
- *No matter what they are we must “lose” them*
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# How Paul “Lost” his Life

*“But what things were gain to me, these **I have counted loss** for Christ.*

***I have suffered the loss** of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” Phil. 3:7-9*

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.*

*Gal 2:20*

- What most people only think about when forced to at the point of death, Paul saw by faith as soon as He heard the gospel.
- What about us?
- Is our commitment so intense and complete that we have “*lost our life*” for Him?

# A Question of Priorities

- *“Remember Lot's wife. Whoever **seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.**” Lk. 17:32-33*
- Lot's family had two choices:
- Die with Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Leave Sodom and Gomorrah.
- It appears Lot's wife was torn.
- Jesus' revealed we all have the same choice.
- To die with the world in our sins
- To die to this world and live on after it dies

# Put to Death...

● *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ... 4 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. Col. 3:1-7*

# Doesn't Ask More than He Gave

- *Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours*
- The cup was His death on the cross. His ultimate sacrifice for the gospel -It wasn't easy
- *“And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Lk 22:42-44*
- This is quality of denial He expects.
- This is how we ***lose our life*** for His sake.

# The Price of our Confession

- Jesus is Christ and Lord – full repentance.
- No matter what the gain... Sin must be “**lost.**”
- Frivolous and unworthy goals must be “**lost**”
- In our “fruits worthy of repentance” we “**lose our life.**”
- *I have **suffered the loss of all** things, and count them as **rubbish**, that I may gain Christ*
- *I have been crucified with Christ; it is **no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me;*

# We Would not be the First

- *They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.*  
Heb 11:37-38

# A Parable of Explanation

- *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Mt. 13:44*
- The reward of Eternal life, heaven and the resurrection are all part of the treasure.
- What sacrifices are we willing to make for it?
- Have we sold all that we have?
- Are we still selling or now buying back?
- Is it still Rubbish?

# The Price of our Confession

- Even mother, father, son, or daughter must be “**lost**” and “**loved less**”
- “*He who loves father or mother **more than Me is not worthy** of Me. And he who loves son or daughter **more than Me is not worthy** of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not **worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.** Mt.*

10:37-39

# Unworthy of Me



# Worthy of Me



# A Difficult Decision

- *Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." Mk 10:21*
- *If we want Jesus to "save our soul"*
- *We must "**come after Him,**" "**deny ourselves,**" "**take up our cross**" and "**follow Him**" now.*
- *"**Remember Lot's wife.**" "*seek to save his life*" *whoever loses his life will preserve it. Lk. 17:32-33**

# Unworthy of Me

- Is the gospel one of many equally important commitments?
- If worship interferes with other commitments (work, hobby, family), will we “*save our lives*” and forsake or “*lose our life*”
- Are we teaching our children to *lose their life* teaching them that commitment to sports or school activities is less important than a Bible class?

- Our time and resources are ours.
- we initially choose where we use them.
- based on things we enjoy or profit us.
- “*My life and I will live as I please.*”  
Hear the gospel, find the treasure, sell all goals and sinful actions to buy it.
- We “*lose our life, “suffer the loss of all things”*” and *love Jesus more.*