

Pastor Ron Case
3/5/17

“Victory by Losing”

*“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
(1 Corinthians 15:57)*

Jesus’ “Exciting” Victory Message

John 12:20-25 – (20) “Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. (21) So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ (22) Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. (23) And Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (25) Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

The Limping Loser Who Won

Genesis 32:24-28, 31 – (24) “And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. (25) When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. (26) Then he said, ‘Let me go, for the day has broken.’ But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.’ (27) And he said to him, ‘What is your name?’ And he said, ‘Jacob.’ (28) Then he said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.’ (31) The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.”

Jesus’ Humiliation & Exaltation

2 Corinthians 8:9 – “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

Philippians 2:5-9 – (5) “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,”

Last Days Relevancy

Luke 17:28-33 – (28) “Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, (29) but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— (30) so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (31) On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. (32) Remember Lot’s wife.

(33) Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.”

How do these losers look nearly 2000 years later?

“Then Peter said, ‘See, we have left all and followed You.’ So He said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.’” (Luke 18:28-30 NKJV)

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ” (Philippians 3:7-8)

“Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” (Acts 4:36-37)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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