

Mark 8:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Analysis

Whosoever will save life shall lose it but whosoever shall lose life for my sake gospel shall save it. Paradoxical saying. Save sōsai preserve protect. Life psychēn soul life existence. Shall lose apolesei destroy forfeit eternally. But adversative. Lose apolesei give up sacrifice. For my sake heneken emou because of Christ. And gospel euangelia. Shall save sōsei preserve eternally. Self-preservation leads to loss. Self-sacrifice leads to life. Kingdom values reverse worldly values. Reformed theology emphasizes dying to self losing life in Christ gaining eternal life.

Historical Context

Context is cost of discipleship taking up cross following Jesus. Martyrdom literal possibility for early Christians. But principle broader applies to all who would follow Christ. Must be willing to lose everything for Christ. Rich young ruler could not (Mark 10). Peter declared we left all (10:28). Paul counted all loss for Christ (Phil 3:8). Early church many martyrs willing to lose life for gospel. Modern comfortable Christianity struggles with this radical demand. True discipleship requires total commitment.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does paradox of losing life to save it challenge self-preservation self-fulfillment culture?
2. What does for my sake and gospel mean practically for believers not facing literal martyrdom?

Interlinear Text

ὅς	γὰρ	ἀν	θέλῃ	τὴν	ψυχὴν	αὐτήν	σώσει	ἀπολέσῃ
whosoever	For	G302	will	G3588	life	it	save	shall lose
G3739	G1063		G2309		G5590	G846	G4982	G622
αὐτήν	ὅς	δ'	ἀν	ἀπολέσῃ	τὴν	ψυχὴν	αὐτήν	
it	whosoever	but	G302	shall lose	G3588	life	it	
G846	G3739	G1161		G622		G5590	G846	
ἔνεκεν	έμοι	καὶ	τοῦ	εὐαγγελίου	οὐτὸς	σώσει	αὐτήν	
for	my sake	and	G3588	the gospel's	the same	save	it	
G1752	G1700	G2532		G2098	G3778	G4982	G846	

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 9:23 (Parallel theme): And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

2 Timothy 1:8 (Parallel theme): Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

Luke 17:33 (Salvation): Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

Matthew 16:25 (Salvation): For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 10:39 (Parallel theme): He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 19:29 (Parallel theme): And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Acts 9:16 (Parallel theme): For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

2 Corinthians 12:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Luke 9:24 (Salvation): For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Revelation 12:11 (Parallel theme): And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

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