

Matthew 10:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Analysis

Jesus' paradox 'He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it' expresses the kingdom's upside-down economics. Attempting to preserve earthly life, comfort, and safety results in losing eternal life. Sacrificing earthly life for Christ results in finding true, abundant, eternal life. This is the cross-and-resurrection pattern—death leads to life. Self-preservation leads to loss; self-sacrifice leads to gain.

Historical Context

The Greek word 'life' (*psychē*) means soul/life—both physical existence and essential self. Jesus teaches that clinging to temporal security costs eternal security, while releasing temporal life secures eternal life. This challenges all self-protective, self-centered living.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What aspects of 'your life' are you clinging to that Jesus calls you to lose?

2. How have you experienced finding life by losing it for Jesus' sake?

Interlinear Text

ό	εύρησει	τὴν	ψυχὴν	αὐτήν	ἀπολέσας	αὐτήν	καὶ
G3588	He that findeth	G3588	life	it	he that loseth	it	and
	G2147		G5590	G846	G622	G846	G2532
ό	ἀπολέσας	τὴν	ψυχὴν	αὐτήν	ἔνεκεν	έμοι	εύρησει
G3588	he that loseth	G3588	life	it	sake	for my	He that findeth
	G622		G5590	G846	G1752	G1700	G2147
αὐτήν							
it							
G846							

Additional Cross-References

John 12:25 (Parallel theme): He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

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

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

Revelation 2:10 (Parallel theme): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.