

USING LOSS FOR GAIN

Lee Moses

The death of a human being has been well-described as “loss” for his loved ones left behind. When a loved one dies, it takes something significant out of our lives. And, if we were close enough to that person, his death takes something significant out of us. A large part of our identity derived from that person; and when that source of identity is removed, we might have difficulty even knowing who we are anymore. For many, this is almost unavoidable in the short term.

But this does not have to remain the case in the long term.

Stephen played a major role in the early church at Jerusalem. Among the seven special servants chosen by the church, only his character receives description in the Scriptures—“a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 6:5). Immediately following the special servants’ installation, only his works are mentioned: “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people” (verse 8). He was unexcelled in his defense of the Gospel against its enemies (6:9-7:54). It was for this last trait that he was wrongfully murdered by the Jews (7:54-60). And in his death, he showed astonishingly Christ-like character as he sought his murderers’ forgiveness (verse 60; cf. Luke 23:34). No Christian who knew Stephen could have helped but love him deeply.

Needless to say, the church was deeply grieved by their loss: “And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him” (Acts 8:2).

Adding insult to their injury, Christians were persecuted and driven from their homes in Jerusalem at the same time (verse 1). This could have been more than enough to devastate many churches and individual Christians. What happened to these Christians following their tremendous loss? “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). The tremendous loss suffered by the church at Jerusalem led to tremendous gain for the Cause of Christ.

Although we may feel we have lost part of ourselves in losing a loved one, or in suffering another form of loss, it does not have to spell final defeat. As lost as we might feel in the immediate aftermath, what becomes of us in following years we largely get to choose. Are we going to allow ourselves to become miserable people by wallowing in misery and self-pity? Or are we going to allow our perspective to be shaped by the character and promises of God?

Have we lost someone we saw as a source of our identity? Our identity is formed and found in Christ (Gal. 4:19; Phil. 2:4; Col. 1:27; 3:10). That Source of identity can never be taken away from the faithful Christian.

Times of loss try us, but they do not have to end us. As one writer stated, “Hard things are going to shape us in ways easy things can’t.” God will continue to offer His providence and direction. Are we going to trust in God enough to follow His direction for our lives? If we do, we will inevitably become better people who will inevitably live better lives. The loss we experience and the subsequent choices we make can converge with the providence of God to make our lives more meaningful, all to the glory of God.

Help From God For Uncertain Times

Things are so difficult in our world today. All you have to do is listen to the radio, read a newspaper or watch the news. People are worried over the news of the current health crisis we are seeing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It seems that everyone is getting this virus and most people who get it are dying - which is not true. And add to all our concerns, our great economy has been shattered by the nationwide shut-down with millions unemployed. We continue to see riots in the streets destroying our cities and defying our laws and the police. Many in our church family have dealt with and are dealing with struggles as never before. Things have really changed in our world.

Most of the important and life-changing lessons we learn are learned during difficult times. In the New Testament we read, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Paul wrote these words from a Roman prison cell. He did not allow the circumstances he was in to bring defeat into his life. He had something to cling to and someone to look to in his troubles.

Observe the relationship that Paul had with God. He said, "My God" shall supply all your need. Paul was able to pray to God in time of trouble because of His strong relationship with God. He acknowledged Jehovah as His God. When times are difficult let us declare Him as "My God." **Time that we spend in prayer and reading the Bible keeps us grounded with this great confidence in God. God is always with His children, no matter what.**

Paul’s future, as ours, is seen through his relationship with our Almighty God. Paul wrote, “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:9). There is not a legitimate need in our life that God is unable to respond to. God is aware of all our needs and is willing to meet them, no matter what our need may be. Therefore, we will believe in God and hold on to Him. "Jesus said..., “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23).

We can live with confidence no matter what is happening around us. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). God has prepared the way for His people through all struggles of life! Let us hold to His unchanging hand (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17).

(Author Unknown)

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)
Remember in Prayer:

Hillard Holcomb suffered a stroke and a brain bleed last Sunday night after services. He has been moved to Phil and Flo Jones Hospice House. He is in room 108.

Myra Preston is in Arkansas Continued Care Hospital, room 201, undergoing therapy and showing several improvements.

Mittie Stallings was able to come home after successful hip surgery but her knees do not allow her to walk.

Marshall Lands continues to improve at home.

Funeral arrangements for Traci Johnson, daughter-in-law of James and Sandra Johnson, are incomplete while waiting for her husband Tim to be dismissed from the hospital. Please continue to remember this family in your prayers.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.

Please update us if needed.

Also please pray for these who are directly or indirectly affected by Covid-19,
 and please keep us updated.

Tim Johnson (the son of James and Sandra Johnson).

Tim remains in NEA Baptist but is improving and hopes to have gone home at the end of last week.

In Other News:

Toddlers to teens and in between: In the month of February, our studies will revolve around the love of God and Jesus for us, and the ways we can show love to each other. We will continue our look each week at one of God’s amazing animals. We are adding 2 memory verses a week, which will be included in the class materials.

Please keep checking the big bulletin boards on either side of the auditorium doors for work that our students are doing to portray beloved hymns through art.

Those Privileged To Serve

February 14, 2021

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
 Opening Prayer: Logan Snyder
 Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris
 Bible Reading: David Loggins
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE

Presiding:
 Randy Oden Kevin Roush
 Reginald Read James Johnson
 Gerald George Jeff Presley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Nichols

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Kevin Roush
 Opening Prayer: Steve Stoker
 Closing Prayer: David Dye
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

February 17, 2021

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
 Opening Prayer: Jeff Presley
 Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

February 17, 2021
 Mark Wooten

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

February 7, 2021

Sunday Bible Study	71
Sunday AM Worship	98
Sunday PM Worship	76
Wednesday Bible Study	Ice
Contribution	\$5660

**“Endeavoring to keep the
 unity of the Spirit in the
 bond of peace.”**

Ephesians 4:3

The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

Every day that passes we draw one day closer to eternity. No one knows what tomorrow holds except the One who holds tomorrow in His hand. Let us all be resolved to do the best we can today to live faithfully before God. Tomorrow may or may not come, but we can be prepared for it. Make every effort to make today the best day it can be.

We do not know from one week to the next what may be changed in our lives. We often see and talk with brethren today and then do not see them again in this life. So quickly our friendship and fellowship can be dissolved. Let us make every day as good as it can be with those we love and those we should be loving.

Most likely you have not noticed that the weather is cold and wet. This week it is supposed to bring more cold weather and even some snow. When the weather is so uncomfortable, what do you do? How did you spend the time you have been given this week? Did you read and study the Word? Did you spend much time in prayers and intercessions? Have you thought to call or text someone to encourage them? Is the problem, that you have not had time? See what you can do with the unexpected moments you are given each week. As this past week ended, what can you say you accomplished? What will you do better this week?

With this changing weather and the ice and snow, we need to be reminded or informed about our policies during inclement weather. We will always meet on Sunday mornings for those who can be here. The services on Sunday evenings and Wednesday night may need to be cancelled. If we do cancel a service, we will send out a text message to all those who receive text messages. Then as best as we can we will call everyone else to let you know. We do not need anyone getting out during ice and snow if we are not meeting. If you ever have a question about us meeting, you can always call me or the office.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
 Randy Oden

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
 Jerry Dodson
 Stacy Eddleman
 Mike Felts
 Jason Garland
 Scott Pratt
 Kevin Roush
 Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Samrit Kammanee
 Micah Robertson, Montana
 Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
 Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
 John 8:24

Repent of your sins
 Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus
 as the Son of God
 Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the
 remission of your sins
 Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
 Revelation 2:10

**“Lift up your eyes, and
 look on the fields; for they
 are white already to
 harvest.” (John 4:35)**

**Each One Invite One
 in Twenty-One**