

Losers

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

Joni Eareckson Tada has written, “Christianity is for losers. It’s a religion of losers. To follow Jesus Christ means to lose one’s self to this world. It means losing all your winnings in this world in order to lay up treasures in the next. To be a disciple of Christ means to negate your pride, subtract your fleshly wants, and put behind you your carefully constructed plans.”

This is a challenge to me. It is very hard to put aside my plans. I tend to plan everything and strive to reach goals. There is nothing wrong with planning and doing our best unless it stands in the way of God’s plans.

Christ delights in those who consider themselves least, those who consider their plans insignificant to God’s plans. I have been thinking a lot about the Christians who are being slaughtered for Jesus Christ. What about their plans? Their faith has cost them their lives and yet they are overcomers, not by this world’s standards but by God’s standards.

And everyone who has left, houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.—Matthew 19:29-30.

God does not promise that we will be winners by the world’s standards. He does not guarantee that we will come in first in the races in which we compete. We are on a faith journey and we will win in the end. We will be overcomers.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.—II Corinthians 4:16