

NETCAST SERMON NOTES

Series: It's All Loss

Date: June 28th, 2026

Title: It's All Loss

Speaker: John Craft

It's All Loss

Key Scripture: Philippians 3:7-11 (with Matthew 13:44-46)

The Big Idea: Knowing Jesus Christ intimately is infinitely better than any earthly accomplishment, reputation, or comfort—true transformation means counting everything else as a total loss compared to His surpassing worth.

The Field and the Treasure Chest

In Matthew 13, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a man who unexpectedly discovers a treasure chest hidden beneath the surface of a field. In his sheer excitement, he goes home, willingly sells absolutely everything he owns, and buys that field.

- The Infinite Exchange: Paul operates with this exact same value system. Comparing worldly success to knowing Jesus is like trading monopoly money for the real thing, a toy crown for a real kingdom, or a flickering flashlight for the blazing sun.

What Our Culture Craves (and Paul Calls Rubbish)

Our modern culture conditioned us to constantly chase five specific things to define our identity. Paul took his entire elite résumé and labeled it as total loss (rubbish) compared to Christ:

- Independence: Culture says, "I'll figure it out privately rather than ask for help publicly." Paul gladly admits his need for God.
- Competence: We trust our own intellect, education, and capability over God. Paul views his achievements as loss.
- Reputation/Respect: We obsess over status, asking, "Have I built something impressive?" Paul says to lose the status to gain Christ.
- Comfort: We chase the nice car, the good salary, the perfect house, and smooth vacations. Paul willingly embraces suffering if it means intimacy with Jesus.
- Identity: We anchor our worth in our heritage, gender, or individual expressions. Paul surrenders his background entirely to be found in Christ.

The Heart Position: There is nothing wrong with possession, wealth, or success. The issue is not the possession itself; it is the position it holds in your heart.

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The Slow Forging of a Mindset

This radical shift does not happen overnight through self-help coaching or behavior modification. It is a lifelong process of sanctification.

- Paul's Timeline: Paul encountered Jesus, but it was 3 years before he visited Jerusalem, 11-14 years before his first missionary journey, and another 10-12 years before writing Philippians. Through shipwrecks, beatings, abundance, and lack, his value system was refined until he could write with absolute certainty that he was content in all circumstances (Philippians 4:11-13).

Four Practical Mindset Shifts

1. Hold Success with Open Hands

The world holds success with a clenched fist. Having a growing company, a great career, or getting into an elite school is amazing—but not at the expense of your soul (Mark 8:36). The question is not: Can I have success? The question is: Does success have you?

2. Choose Obedience Over Opportunity

This means actively refusing unethical business practices, choosing purity before marriage, or turning down a lucrative promotion if it will destroy your family and your devotion to Jesus.

3. Be a Full-Time Christian

Do not limit your faith to Sunday church rooms. Bring the ministry into your Monday morning routine. The boardroom, the cubicle, the staff lounge, the classroom, and the locker room are your actual mission fields.

4. Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

When Jesus becomes your treasure, money shifts from being your master to simply being a tool for stewardship.

- You stop chasing every single dollar, bonus, or 80-hour work week just to impress people.
- You leverage your wealth to fund student camp scholarships, help a neighbor in a crisis, or support the local church.
- The Bible does not condemn wealth; it warns us against the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10).

Call to Action / Reflection: As you reflect on the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, ask Him this direct question: What does it practically look like for me to live out the mindset that everything in my life is a loss compared to knowing You?