



July 19, 2026 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart

Jesus Changes Everything

Loss → Inheritance

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:12–15; Romans 8:16–18; 1 Peter 1:3–5

Spotlight: Faithful lives receive eternal reward.

Summary: Loss is part of life in this broken world. Luke 12:25 "And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to your span of life?" Death comes and loss persists because of sin and the consequences of sin. We lose possessions, opportunities, relationships, health, positions, dreams, and eventually earthly life itself. But Jesus changes the narrative. He provides a way to live forever which changes our understanding of loss. In Christ, **loss is never the end of the story**. The cross was not loss. The tomb was not loss. The resurrection is the promise of the inheritance of eternal life. What is *surrendered* to Jesus is not wasted, what is *suffered* for Him is not forgotten, and what Jesus has *promised* will not be taken away.

Because of Jesus, believers can look beyond temporary loss and live with confidence in an eternal inheritance.

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." *Jim Elliot*

<https://elisabethelliott.org/about/jim-elliott/>

1. Count Everything Earthly as Loss

Philippians 3:8-9 ESV

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all

things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

John 12:25

25 Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.

2. Build On What Will Last

1 Corinthians 3:11–15

11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. 12 Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. 13 But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. 14 If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. 15 But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

Paul compares the Christian life to a building project. Jesus Christ is the foundation, but each believer must decide what kind of life will be built upon Him.

On Judgment Day, Jesus Christ will examine what we have built. The fire will not determine whether Jesus is sufficient to save us. It will reveal whether our lives were invested in things that carried eternal value.

Jesus teaches us to invest in what cannot be taken away: people, the gospel, God's Word, acts of love, faithful service, prayer, and obedience.

3. Endure with Eternal Perspective

Romans 8:16–18

16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. 17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Paul reminds believers that they are God's children and heirs together with Christ. Yet being an heir does not mean sugaring is avoided. Jesus suffered

before He entered His glory, and His followers should not be surprised when faithfulness involves hardship.

Loss hurts. Grief is real. Disappointment can be overwhelming. But he places present suffering beside future glory and says they cannot be compared.

What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later **(Romans 8:18)**.

Our suffering has an expiration date. God's glory does not.

The believer's present circumstances may be difficult, but they are not permanent. Loss may describe this season, but it does not define our future. We are children of God, heirs of His promises, and recipients of His coming glory.

4. Trust the Promise of Inheritance

1 Peter 1:3–5

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, 4 and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 5 And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

Peter describes the believer's inheritance as "priceless," "pure," "undefiled," and "beyond the reach of change and decay."

Our inheritance in Christ is completely secure. It is kept in heaven for us, and we are being kept by God's power until we receive it fully. This inheritance is guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When we release our grip on temporary things and laying up treasure in heaven is our aim, we begin to give generously, serve sacrificially, forgive freely, and live courageously. This becomes possible because our greatest possession can never be lost.

Jesus does not promise those who follow Him that they will never experience loss. He promises that loss doesn't have to be the final word. Our work for

Christ will be remembered, our present suffering will give way to future glory, and our eternal inheritance is safely guarded by God. Because Jesus rose from the dead, believers can live with hope rather than fear, generosity rather than selfishness, and faithfulness rather than regret. What we lose in this world is temporary, but what we gain in Christ lasts forever.

Do not spend your life *collecting* what you cannot keep while *neglecting* what you cannot lose.

Count Everything Earthly as Loss.

Build On What Will Last.

Endure with eternal perspective.

Trust the Promise of Inheritance.

Live today for what lasts forever—Trust Jesus.

Next Steps: Live today for what lasts forever—Trust Jesus.

Life Application:

1. What temporary thing has been receiving more of my attention than eternal things?
2. If Christ evaluated the way I am using my time, abilities, influence, and resources, what would He find that carries eternal value?
3. Am I building my life primarily around comfort, success, recognition, or obedience to Christ?
4. What loss, disappointment, or suffering is making it difficult for me to see God's future promises?
5. How does knowing that I am a child and heir of God change the way I face present hardship?
6. What am I afraid of losing, and what does that fear reveal about where I have placed my security?

7. Am I living as though this world is my permanent home, or as someone whose inheritance is safely kept in heaven?

8. What act of generosity, service, forgiveness, witness, or obedience can I take today that will matter in eternity?