# LOSER

*August 31, 2025*

### KEY SCRIPTURE

- Matthew 16:24–25
- Mark 8:34–38
- Luke 9:23–26
- John 12:25–26
- Matthew 7:13–14

### KEY POINTS

- To be a "loser" means to *lose your life*—deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow JESUS.
- Jesus repeated this teaching multiple times across the Gospels, showing its importance.
- The world sees disciples of Jesus as "losers," but Heaven calls them champions.
- Our culture glorifies self-preservation, self-promotion, and compromise, but Christ calls us to surrender.
- Choosing to "lose" means giving up popularity, possessions, and approval to have a relationship with JESUS.
- Even with good intentions—compromising Biblical faith can open doors to corruption.
- The narrow way is lonely and difficult, but it leads to true life and joy in Christ.
- Persecution and tribulation are promised for the believer, but Jesus has already overcome.
- Jesus Himself modeled losing—resisting Satan's temptations, and ultimately choosing the cross.
- The true prize of Heaven is not the place, but the presence of Jesus Himself.

### DISCUSSION

- How do you personally wrestle with the tension between living for Jesus and seeking the world's approval?
- Which part of Jesus's call to "deny yourself and take up your cross daily" challenges you most?
- Pastor Marcus said, *"The world's losers are Heaven's champions."* Where do you see that truth in your own life? Or someone's life you know personally?
- What are some areas where you may be tempted to compromise your faith for acceptance, comfort, or success?
- How can remembering persecuted believers around the world (Hebrews 13:3) strengthen your faith and boldness?
- Jesus is the true prize of eternity. If Heaven were offered without Him, would you still want to go? Why or why not?