

Paradoxes to Live by

Saving your life by losing it

Six times Jesus made the paradoxical statement that to find one's life, one must actually choose to lose it!

**while sending out the 12, Matt. 10:29*

**while predicting His death, Matt. 16:25, Mk. 8:35, Lk. 9:24*

**while predicting His 2nd coming, Lk. 17:33*

**while predicting His death, Jn. 12:25*

(note some slight variations that are synonymous)

Context of statements = an invitation for unbelievers or a challenge for believers?

What does losing our life/denying ourselves look like?

What makes this paradox worthwhile to accept?

Consider how Jesus handled it! Was it an easy choice for Him? See Jn. 12:25-27, Matt. 26:39. Note what factors impacted Jesus' decision—Jn. 6:38, Heb. 12:2. And how did things work out for Him? Phil. 2:5ff.

Matt. 16:26 = a rhetorical question (note "soul" is the same word translated "life" in v. 25). Living only for this world doesn't pay off since doing so subtracts from the next life. Verse 26 should recall Matt 4:8-11 to mind.

Jesus' handling of this paradox is a model for us. We likewise have all the motivation in the world for denying ourselves/losing our lives for our future life. See Rom. 8:18, II Cor. 4:17, II Jn. 8, II Tim. 6:18,19, Matt. 5:11,12, 6:19,20.

***Questions: Do you believe this paradox is true?
Has this paradox changed your life?***