

# Shiloh Messenger

September 2009

## Significance Through Loss

**“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it” (Mark 8:35).**



There is much to be gained in loosing. This statement sounds foolish to anyone who is thinking from a worldly mindset. The world & society has placed high value on self-promotion & recognition. Even in the religious circle people have left the Church because they felt that leadership did not recognize them appropriately. I do believe in honor especially to those who have given their lives to the ministry of the Word ( I Timothy. 5:17). The scriptures clearly celebrates achievements of those who God chooses to promote & honor. I believe it is God's heart to bless His people with all the Blessings of Deuteronomy 28. But many have not learned to just love the Lord with all their hearts in the secret places. In Mark 8:35 the Lord is revealing to us the way to live a life of significance is by loving God & dying to self. Jesus said, If you come to me to find true life, then it can only be experienced by living a crucified life (Gal. 2:20). This is a heavenly perspective that cannot be understood by natural means. One of my favorite Christian worship leaders is Misty Edwards. There is one particular song she has written called “Servant Of All”. Read the lyrics of this song; **“I want to be Your lover. So show me how to go lower. For in the depths I will find You, where you're serving my brother. I want to be with You where You are. You're the Servant of all. I'm in love with a King who became a Slave and I'm love with a God who is humble. And you got to go down if you want to go up and you've got to go lower if you want to go higher and higher. And you've got to hide and do it in secret if you want to be seen by God. Cause it's the inside, outside, upside down kingdom, where you lose to gain and you die to live”**

How do you perceive the words to this song? Is it a song for your spirit to ascend to God's Throne Room or is it nonsense based on philosophical reasoning? You be the judge. The Lord has designed us to know & hear Him by the Spirit. Jesus said the Words that I speak are “Spirit & Life” (John.6:63). So when we read the Word of God it is spiritual life being revealed to our born again spirit. I believe most Christians are sincere about living a life that is pleasing to God. They also believe the Word of God is inspired by God. But when trials & temptations of life come & they are squeezed real hard, what comes out? Usually it is their carnal nature. In Romans chapter 8, the Apostle Paul addressed carnality. He says, **“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” Romans 8:5-8** . Here is the most important area of our lives that must be addressed. It is living life by the Spirit. Flesh is what separates us from a loving God. Here is what Galatians 5:19-21 describes as the works of the flesh, **“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”** The Lord has made a way for us to enjoy His presence. It is by recognizing that we have the Holy Spirit, who has set up residence in our inner man. We must allow Him His rightful place. When we do, He reveals the Love of God to our spirit man & then we are able to say, “Not my will but Yours my Lord & King”.

We have untapped potential in us waiting to be developed. A greater purpose awaits our complete surrender. Our Lord prophesied in **John 14:12, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father”**. Greater works than what Jesus did? Yes! There are more of us that are filled with the Holy Spirit & represent Him as “Temples of God” (1 Cor. 3:16). Our Lord commanded us to, **“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8)**. This is a supernatural life. We need to be living life to our full capacity & anointing. Jesus Christ our Savior sees so much potential in each one of us. Oh, how grieved He must be to see us living way below the glorious life He purchased for us ! He desires for us to experience a life of relentless abandonment of self. We limit the true life of God, because of our dwarfed, yet elevated opinion of ourselves. We have to become a servant to all in order for us to experience the “Supernatural Divine Kingdom Life”. The Apostle Paul pointed to Jesus as the ultimate example of servant hood & selflessness. Jesus deliberately stripped Himself of everything, His Divinity. He then did the un-imaginable, by crossing the chasm to offer Himself as a Lamb to be slain for the sins of man. He went from sinless to become sin for you & me (2 Cor. 5:21). He knowingly embraced a life of giving, serving, loosing & dying. Christians often say “Lord here I am use me” & God say's, **“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24)**. Most stumble & fall at this, never getting back up. We are called to pattern our lives after Christ. **“As He is, so are we in this world” (1 John. 4:17)**. God views humility, as strength, not weakness. What steps can you take toward greater humility? How can you become significant, & expand your service to others? Are you embracing God to die to yourself so that The Glory of God can be manifested in and through you? Are you willing to become a person of no reputation? Are you at a place where you are saying, “Not my will Lord but yours ?” **“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. Philippians 2:5-7**

## A Graduate Testifies

Hello, my name is Alan Jarman, and I am a redeemed individual. I spent seven years of my life bound to addictions until God's love and grace on me drew me to Shiloh Ministries. Throughout my year at Shiloh, I saw God work many miracles in my life, and now I am in a position where I am able to put on display His awesome restoration for the world to see. One of the most important things that God taught me while being at Shiloh was the power of relationships, both with Him and with other people we encounter in our lives. The more I understood that God wanted to have a personal relationship with me, the more He showed me. Becoming a visionary was a huge product of my relationship with God, and now I know that He desires so much to pour His wisdom out on His children so that we can become creative and more effectively change the culture around us. After I started praying about this new passion in my life, the Lord then called me to world missions. I had to be conditioned before I could be commissioned, and Shiloh is where I received this conditioning. During my year at Shiloh, I was given the opportunity to go on two medical mission trips to Mexico. I now know that God ordained these trips for my life in accordance to His will in my life, and on these trips He put people in my path to speak into my life. Two of these people are Jerry and Carla Mansee, who are full-time missionaries in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. When I met them, I knew that they were special people, and the more we talked and got to know each other, the more I wanted to experience the kind of life they had: one of faith. Before I met them, I felt that I was being called to the nations, but through my getting acquainted with them, He confirmed Himself. With this new confirmation, I felt that I needed to be a bold and aggressive in my pursuit of achieving the call on my life. With this in mind, I asked Jerry and Carla if I could possibly stay with them in Mexico for a little while so that I could learn all about the ministry and experience the life of a missionary. They graciously agreed, and a month after I graduated from Shiloh, I was in Mexico. For the last three months, I have been living an amazing life, one that always provides me with opportunities to see the very essence of God in everyday living. Already in my short time there I have seen God do some amazing things. We serve a progressive God, one that uses us to bring His nature to the earth. There is really no excuse for laziness, both physically and spiritually. No matter what our purpose is for God, we have to be tenacious in our striving with God. After Jacob wrestled with the man, he was given the name Israel, which means "strives with God." We too need to have this change in identity in order to maximize our relationship with Him. Living in Mexico and ministering to the people is teaching me about how to effectively bring God's kingdom to earth because I know the only reason I have the opportunity to be down there is because of the call on my life. I know that this is what my life is for, and I am not leaving any time soon. When I look back at the last year of my life, I am amazed at the transformation I see, and the best part is that I am just a little part of it. There are so many other people involved. After all, we are a body. My prayer is that all of us in the body just keep it simple and seek after God. It isn't as hard as what we make it to be sometimes. God will then ignite within all of us a hunger to change the world we live in. We all need to think about others and develop a world view that helps us think outside of convention so that the gospel can be more effective. Romans 10:14-15 says it best: "How then will they call on Him whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent?"



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**Shiloh Ministries gives the LORD honor and praise for lives that have been delivered from a life of drug addiction. We celebrate Kingdom Life here at Shiloh. All of our supporters make a tremendous contribution towards lives that forever are destined for eternity with God. We ask and encourage everyone to give financially to help with the cost of restoring lives. The LORDS Ministry at Shiloh is free to the men who seek restoration. It is a walk of faith for our financial needs to be met every month. Would you please consider being a monthly supporter? God always speaks to those He has asked to give. We believe that His people will respond out of a heart of gratitude for what He has done & continues to do for them. Thank you, for your generosity in giving & co-laboring with us in the LORDS Ministry at Shiloh. (Shiloh Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501C3 Charitable Organization)**

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