



WHAT CAN A MAN GIVE IN RETURN FOR HIS SOUL?

MARK 8:35-37

Life-Soul: the core of one's existence, that contained in physical life together with that that transcends physical life, "personhood";

MATTHEW 2:20

²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's *life* are dead."

MATTHEW 10:28

²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the *soul*. Rather fear him who can destroy both *soul* and body in hell.

Saving/gaining by losing;

MATTHEW 10:34-39

³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ *Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*"

LUKE 17:33

³³ Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

JOHN 12:24-26

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ *Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.* ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

The surpassing authority claimed by Christ;

Salvation and discipleship are far more than a mystical attachment to the Christ of our perception. They are a total submission to the doctrine and commands of Christ as recorded in the Scriptures.

Christ invites and requires a re-valuation of all of life;

PSALM 49:7-8

⁷ *Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life,* ⁸ for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice.

Herein is wisdom. See how men throw overboard the lading of the ship when it becomes a question of saving their lives. *Reason teaches them that the less precious must go first:* they do not throw over first their gold and then their corn, neither do they lose their lives to save their ingots. So let us, above all things, care for our souls and their eternal interests. He whose house was burned to ashes kneeled down and thanked the Lord because his child was safe; and he who loses the whole world but obtains eternal salvation has so much to rejoice in that he would waste his tears if he shed them over his losses.

—Thomas Manton, 1620-1677

Only Jesus truly understands the comparison;

MATTHEW 4:8-9

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him *all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.*

⁹ And he said to him, "*All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.*"

The world holds a strong attraction for all people;

PSALM 73:25-26

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? *And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.* ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

JAMES 4:1

¹ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that *your passions are at war within you?*

1 JOHN 1:8

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Jesus "pivots" in His paradox;

—The worth of a soul, and the implications of its worth—

The sorrowful burden of God;

2 PETER 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, *not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

EZEKIEL 33:11

¹¹ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, *I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?*