

FIVE BIGGEST LOSERS OF THE BIBLE

CNN founder Ted Turner once quipped “Christianity is for losers.” Although intended to be a derogatory remark, his comment was actually theologically correct! In fact, the pages of the Bible are filled with examples of God using “losers” to accomplish His plan. Here are 5 of them:



■ **Noah.** Noah “lost” nearly 100 years of his life building the ark (Genesis 5:32; Genesis 7:11). And when the floodwaters subsided, the world as Noah and his family knew it had been completely destroyed. Yet the writer in Hebrews commended Noah for the obedience he displayed, making him an “heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.” (Hebrews 11:7)

■ **Abraham.** Abraham (previously called Abram) “lost” his country, his people, and his father’s household to follow God’s leading to an unknown land the Lord would show him (Genesis 12:1). Then before he died, Abraham left all he owned to his son Isaac (Genesis 25:5). Yet in spite of losing everything, Abraham was called the “father of many nations” (Genesis 17:5) and God’s friend (James 2:23).

■ **Paul.** The Apostle Paul considered “everything a loss” compared to knowing Christ, and willingly lost all things and considered them rubbish so that he would gain Christ (Philippians 3:8). And for Paul, this was a journey, not a one-time event as he “pressed on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of [him].” (Philippians 3:12)

■ **Jesus.** Christ “made Himself nothing” though He was in very nature God. His “loss” flowed from an obedience that led to His own horrific death on the cross. But He did it for “the joy set before Him” (Hebrews 12:2), and consequently God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him “the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:7-11).

■ **You.** Jesus said, “Unless you give up everything, you cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:33) As much as we might wish that Jesus had spoken in more “user friendly” words, the hard truth about following Christ is that the cost is indeed high. But the rewards of faithfully following Him are priceless – abundant and eternal life. (*Hard to Believe* by John MacArthur).

So how can you become a “loser” for God? What does it mean to give up *everything* for Christ? Jesus said where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Luke 12:34). One very practical way followers of Christ are living out this wonderful truth is by committing some or all of their hard-earned lifetime of savings to the cause of Christ. They accomplish this by creating or updating their Will, and then simply designating a percentage of those God-given resources to a ministry organization such as Rockford Rescue Mission.

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- I have included Rockford Rescue Mission in my Will or Estate Plan.



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Reply with envelope or contact Mick Manne at (815) 316-4189 or mickmanne@rockfordrescuemission.org

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