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February 11, 2007

## What separates winners from losers?

*(Learning how to do the smart, hard things first)*

(SERIES: **Making This Year My Best Year Yet: 06 of 07**)  
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"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. (Romans 12:1-2)

### The death sacrifice of Christ . . .

#### Was a **promise**.

"From now on you and the woman will be enemies, as will your offspring and hers. You will strike his heel, but he will crush your head." (Gen 3:15)

#### Was a **price**.

"In fact, . . . without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Heb 9:22)

#### Was a **ransome**.

"For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that **HE HAS DIED AS A RANSOM TO SET THEM FREE** from the sins committed under the first covenant." (Heb 9:15)

#### Was a **satisfaction**.

"So there is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus." (Rom 8:1)

#### Was a \_\_\_\_\_.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal 2:20)

#### Was a **joy**.

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb 12:2)

**A winner is someone who gives what he loves and cannot keep for something he loves more and cannot lose.**

### What is a living sacrifice?

#### Giving all you've got for **love**.

"If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, **I WOULD STILL BE WORTH NOTHING AT ALL WITHOUT LOVE**. If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever." (1 Cor 13:1-3)

#### Giving all you've got for **life**.

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Eph 5:1-2)

#### Giving all you've got for **liberty**.

"It is **for freedom** that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Gal 5:1)

#### Giving all you've got for **the Lord**.

"While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly. 'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. **SHE DID WHAT SHE COULD**. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'" (Mark 14:3-9)