



JUNE 21, 2026 · SUNDAY SERVICE

The paradox of losing your life to find it

“Whoever finds their life will lose it...” · Mt 10:39

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I want to start with a question: do you know what a paradox is? Roughly, it's a saying that seems to go against logic, contradictory on the surface, but that once you look at it closely turns out to make sense and to carry a message. The Bible has its paradoxes too, and it seems to me that the thread running through today's passages is exactly one of them: losing your life in order to find it. It sounds a little contradictory at first, right? But it points to a radical surrender, where death is the indispensable requirement for experiencing true life and the provision of God.

Thesis

True life and God's provision come only through radical surrender: there is no new life without a funeral first.

Main points

- The altar: God is not a capricious tyrant but the faithful God of the covenant, who first gives to us, then asks us to let go, and always provides (the ram of Genesis 22).
- The funeral: baptism is a real burial (Romans 6); we die to sin so it loses all legal dominion over us, and we rise to a new life.
- The road of discipleship: like the trapeze artist who lets go of one bar to grab the next, we release the old life and take up the cross to hold on to Christ (Matthew 10).

Key quotes

There's no new life without first passing through a wake, through a funeral.

Don't focus so much on the gift, but on the One who gave you the gift.

Scripture references

- Genesis 22 (NIV)
- Psalm 89:1-4 (NIV)
- Romans 6 (NIV)
- Matthew 10:37-39 (NIV)

Closing

The kingdom of God advances, but not by force; it advances through voluntary surrender. Jesus gave himself up voluntarily; we too voluntarily let go of what we cling to, that life we think is ideal. And it turns out God can offer us a far better version of that life. So let's draw near to God and, this week, sit with these four ideas. Will you pray with me?