

REVISED AND UPDATED

THE ART OF LOSING

Reshaping the World in the Image of God

A BOOKLET

Narrated by Meredith Meredith

NO MANS ZONE

THE ART OF LOSING

Reshaping the World in the image of God

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NO MANS ZONE

DEDICATION

To Jesus our Savior.

THANK YOU

To everyone who followed his pathway.

CONTENT

DEDICATION

THANK YOU

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The Art of Losing

CONFESSION

A man once asked me 'how do you write your books.' I replied 'I have never written a book in my life. I am not the author.' I saw the shock on his face 'but how can this be he said.' First of all, I am not as smart as you think I am, and second, someone has to write His books as I pointed up.

I am God's author – the narrator. The technique is simple; I sit and He dictates and I write. He brings the thoughts into my mind and I intersperse them with humor, examples, and experiences He has taught me. All of it is His work and not mine.

Then he asked me 'how do you start a book.' It starts with me thinking about a problem and solution of something I am facing or others are facing or both, then a theme pops into my head. I know straight away it is a project He wants me to undertake. Teaching and information He wants people to receive and understand, usually it is an academic subject. So I make the time in my schedule to sit down and listen and write.

Many times He would prepare me first about the topic by guiding me to the books, resources,

and materials He wants me to review. This could take anywhere from one to five years. He would send me to libraries and listen and watch hundreds of teaching videos on the topic until I have “sussed it out” in my mind. Writing is really the easy part at least for me.

Other times there is no research involved because the information comes from years of learning from Him. In these cases, He highlights those parts of my experience and brings them to my focus. I see the lesson before my eyes and I write from the feeling of those experiences. Revelations pop in here and there as I watch Him explain them to me. Really exciting stuff.

These types of books are my favorite because the writing is never fixed but sporadic meaning when God is in the mood He awakes me to write. It could be early in the morning or late at night or even at some ungodly hour of the night when He wants me to write. When I start I am the one who gets tired but I know He wants to go on and on. So I politely excuse myself saying ‘Abba my batteries have run out.’ 😊

What you will be reading in this series of Booklets is learning over fifty years God has allowed me to experience. The theme of this series of booklets is called ‘Reshaping the world in the Image of God.’ We desperately need to

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come back to the teaching and philosophy of the Bible. Far too many of us believers now do not know the difference between God's thinking and the world's thinking, although we read the Word. We think that what we say and do is right, not understanding that we have been programmed.

This is a series of booklets I have put together to show you how to capture or recapture the mindset of God. This is a lost Art we must re-learn and most importantly live again. The topic will change from booklet to booklet. In this work, we will rekindle the Art of Losing long lost to the Church which has embraced the thinking of the world in this area. Please sit back and relax and read knowing that what you are reading is from Him and not me. I am just a vessel chosen to bring these truths to you, my dear brother and sister. God sees what is happening to us. He loves you and authored it for you.

PS. The information I have underlined or made bold or is in Capital is for emphasis only. They do not appear in the original texts.

Yours Faithfully,

Meredith Meredith

PART ONE

Win, Win, Win

The Art of Losing

Win, Win, Win, is what most people want. Everywhere we turn people are talking about winning. This is the message of the media all around us. Daily we are bombarded with it. The media says we must be on top of our game, and that we should do whatever it takes to win. We must pay the price. Winning is everything. Losing is not an option.

Who has not heard the mind-catching slogans about winning?

- Tough times never last. Tough people do.
- Bring out your best.
- Nothing beats winning a tough battle.
- Don't settle for less than what you deserve.
- Live your dreams.
- Think like a king, live like a winner.
- Make the ordinary extraordinary.
- Winning is a habit etc.

If you are a business person or working in the corporate world, winning and learning to be a winner is a top priority. Anyone who especially works or plays with money does not want to lose ever and how much more if it is your job to

make money. We have been psyched to accept Winning as a normal thing. Losing oh my God is death.

What about sports people who have made it their job to win? American football legend coach Vince Lombardi said, "Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is." And motivation guru Napoleon Hill remarked, "A quitter never wins and a winner never quits." Really inspirational stuff and who does not want it? I want to tell you it is a farce and it's all empty.

The bombardment never ends, "You were born to win, but to be a winner, you must plan to win, prepare to win, and expect to win" Zig Ziglar. I can go on quoting thousands of winners' quotes. They all say the same thing in many imaginative and striking ways! But the message is the same, Win, Win, Win! Humanity has been mindsetted to win. If you are the loser tough luck mate, try and try again, and don't give up they will say.

It starts from the day you are born. The winning mindset is how people are brought up, schooled, and educated to their dying day by a system that was designed to take and take. I must admit I too thought this was the right and only way for most of my life raised a

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businessman and sportsman. The solemn truth is, it is the way and thinking of the world.

The Bible tells us in many Scriptures we are not of this world! To save time just read the highlighted parts.

John 17:14-16 “I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it” (NIV).

2. John 15:19 “If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you” (NIV).

1 John 4:5 “They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them” (NIV).

Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and

approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (NIV).

10. James 4:4 "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God" (NIV).

Sorry for the bombardment of Scripture. He wants you to see clearly that this type of thinking Win, Win, Win is not from Him. Satan did his part but there is a deeper root where it comes from, I will get to this later.

Unfortunately, we have been programmed to think and believe we are of this world. Sadly the world knows no other narrative. Satan wants us to think that this is all normal. But is there something wrong with winning? YES! Everything is wrong with it! Spiritually, morally and ethically it is wrong, no matter how you look at it.

Spiritually it goes against core Bible truths about humility, love, respect, trust, and peace. Morally it harms your fellow man. Ethically it costs losers the thing they did not want to lose. Worst still, it could send you to the pit of hell and I mean while living. Winning can kill you.

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The thing is no one ever explained to me why winning was wrong. It took me over 20 years to understand it. There is another narrative or pathway. Make no mistake about this; it is called – the Art of Losing! It is taught and illustrated everywhere in the pages of the Word of God.

PART TWO

The Art of Losing

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The Art of Losing, what is wrong with losing seriously? Everyone has been schooled to believe losing is the worst alternative, for some individuals quite inconceivable. Really! Ask Ray Kroch the founder of MacDonald's;

"If any of my competitors were drowning, I'd stick a hose in their mouth and turn on the water. It is ridiculous to call this an industry. This is not. This is rat eat rat, dog eat dog. I'll kill 'em, and I'm going to kill 'em before they kill me. You're talking about the American way - of survival of the fittest."

Yea people will say, 'Ray is right it is just business man.' Making a profit does not have to be about killing the competition. I will talk about this in the last Part. Nevertheless, I hope you are prepared for a shaking. Losing is Heaven's way. Seriously, Yes! The whole "economy" of the Universe runs according to this philosophy and not the American way. ☺

The idea of the American way is to become rich, successful, and powerful. The capitalist utopia is to be filthy rich, sit back and enjoy the luxuries life has to offer, and enjoy the finest comforts of

the world in work and travel. The plan comes with; the dream homes, the dream family, the dream cars, the dream yacht, and the dream private jet. Who has not been educated about this picture? It is all over Hollywood and the media. Who does not want it? I don't!

The world calls this, "The Art of Winning?" Do you know what I call this? The pathway to hell. This philosophy is the antithesis of the Art of Losing. If it is right and good then explain to me why a rich man commits suicide or why a pop star overdoses on drugs. It is simple, these poor souls do it when they have either lost it all and think they cannot live without it or face the shame. Or because they are bored with it or it has lost its pleasure and it produces pain (emptiness and loneliness).

Then what about the pain and loss this has caused to billions of people who produce the goods and services these millionaires and billionaires trillionaires sell to make their money? The low wages, the debt, and the slavery they produce. Then there are the environmental catastrophes. The products they manufacture pollute the environment and cause millions of species to go extinct and lose their homes. The carnage is formidable. The true cost of the American way! And just in case I appear hard to Americans, no offense is intended. We can

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blame the Europeans who brought it to America and the rest of the World.

The Art of Losing will not cause any of the above-mentioned. It is the antidote, the cure to this madness. The Art of Losing is not about socialism or communism or any other ism. It is the power of the Kingdom of God revealed. The seed that Jesus spoke about when planted in good soil or the leaven is thrown into the dough. Its fruit is love, joy, peace, happiness, equality, and more. As you read through these pages the fruit will become apparent to you.

Now before I go on please let me distinguish something. Losing does not mean allowing someone to shoot you or harm you so that you get sick or die. I am not talking about people who are fighting for their lives or their right to justice like slavery, child labor, persecution, prostitution, drugs, etc. The right to life and to live in peace and prosper is guaranteed in Scripture. You have a right to protect yourself or fight injustice or a disease. Winning in these situations is a matter of life and death.

The Art of losing is about the mindset of Heaven. Jesus said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of it." Allow me to expand, Jesus is explaining that don't think, behave and do as the world does. You are no longer of this

mindset. I have delivered you from the world. At this point, I could give you many examples but we will leave this for the last Part. Instead, I will give you an illustration that will bring the feeling home because we all have experienced this in our lives.

Anyone who has been a parent or a kindergarten teacher will understand the joy of losing. I have raised several children and I have many grandchildren. As a parent, you understand the need to engage with your children in games and challenges. How many of us parents or teachers have wrestled with kids and we always make sure they win because it is more fun to lose than to win?

The joy on the faces of children when they win makes losing an absolute pleasure. It always brings a smile to my face. In this situation, we have no problem with losing. In fact, we insist on losing. Why? Because we desire to bring joy and accomplishment to our children. We want to build them up instead of tearing them down. So we deliberately lose the game. And the thing is we lose with finesse and grace. It never bothers us for a moment because we lost. We gave cheerfully.

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PART THREE

Cheerfully giving

Cheerfully giving, everyone gives but to give cheerfully as the Bible says is another dimension or spiritual height people seldom reach. The pathway to the real utopia.

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (ESV).

The art of losing is about giving of yourself. And if you can do it cheerfully or delightfully without a grudge or the need to recite or gloat about it, you have surely advanced to the next level. The level of people who you are not of this world. Congrats, you are more angel now than you are human. 😊

If you have not had any children or attended a kinder garden don't worry you are not a lost cause. 😊 But surely you did not forget the experience. Just about every one of us at one time or another has played with children and perhaps you remember instinctively how you choose to lose the game and the shame of

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losing did not matter. Right, do you remember now?

Believe it or not, you had trained yourself to lose and there was nothing wrong with it. You did not think it was abnormal or even ridiculous. Winning just wasn't the best thing to do. What did it cost you, really nothing not even your ego because you know you can win but you lose for their sake? You lost cheerfully.

Now at times for the sake of asserting our strength and showing that you are in control, you allow yourselves to win one match and the child loses. Who does not remember the look of defeat on their little faces? I can still remember the reactions of my children to my winning. They were disgusted with me. The shame hit me like a rock on my head.

Any mother will tell you the sheer happiness of seeing a child win in a game. How many times have I watched mothers pretending to lose a pretend fight with a child? It is never in her mind that she any time times needs to win. Instinctively she will always lose. And she enjoys it very much.

Ah! But we are adults and losing is not a good option so you think. The wisest man who ever lived would disagree. Proverbs 16:32 says, "He

who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city" (NKJV).

King Solomon understood that it is better to rule, that is lower and control your spirit than to win or conquer a city. There is a lot of humility in the Art of losing. In fact, just about half of the effort is to humble yourself and the other half is learning to enjoy it. This is easier said than done. No one really likes to take the back seat in the Banquet but it is the way of the kingdom Jesus taught.

"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" Luke 14:8-15. (NIV).

Why is it that we think that losing is bad and that we should win all the time?

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The Purpose of NMZ is set forth in these Scriptures;

- NMZ Vision: Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 40:1-9; Yechezkel (Ezekiel) 37.
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NOTES

For further information contact

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