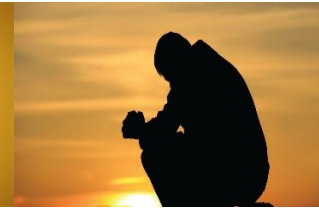


PART ONE

THE ART OF LOSING



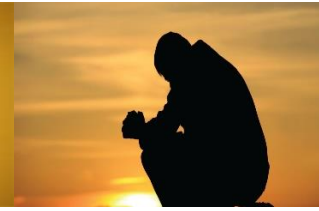
THE ART OF LOSING. Win, Win, Win. Is what most people want. Everywhere we turn people are talking about winning. This is the message of the media all around us. Daily, we are bombarded with it. The media says we must be on top of our game and that we should do whatever it takes to win. We must pay the 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." It's 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 businessman and sportsman. The solemn truth is it is the way and thinking of the world. The Scriptures tell us in many verses we are not of this world! From this point forward, I will be using the Christian versions because they make the message clearer, and to save you time, I have highlighted the essential parts. Yochanan (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). Yochanan Bet (Second 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). Yochanan Alef (First John) 4:5 *"They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them"* (NIV). Romiyah (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. Yaakov (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. The thing is, no one ever explained to me why

PART TWO

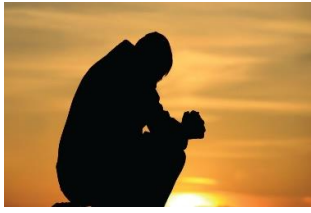


winning was wrong. It took me over 20 years to understand it. There is another narrative or pathway. Make no mistake about this; it is called – the Art of Losing! It is taught and illustrated everywhere in the pages of the Set Apart Scriptures. **The Art of Losing.** What is wrong with losing seriously? Everyone has been schooled to believe losing is the worst alternative, and for some individuals, it is 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." Yeah, people will say, 'Ray is right; it is just business.' Making a profit does not have to be about killing the competition. I can't talk about business here. 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, as the Riches man who ever lived discovered. His name was Melech Shlomo. 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 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 Eloah revealed. The seed that Yeshua 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. Yeshua said, *"They are not of the world, even as I am not of it."* Allow me to expand. Yeshua explains that you shouldn't think, behave, and do as the world does. You are no longer of this mindset. I have delivered you from the world. 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 ensure they win because it is more fun to lose than win? The joy on the faces of children

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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. **Cheerfully giving.** Everyone gives, but to give cheerfully, as the Word 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"* Qorintyah Bet (Second 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 has played with children at one time or another, and perhaps you remember instinctively how you chose to lose the game, and the shame of 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. Mishle (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 Yeshua 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"* Luka (Luke) 14:8-15. (NIV). Why do we think that losing is bad and that we should win all the time? **Survival of the fittest.** We are brought up in a world where the fittest is the one who survives and rises to the top in any field. This is not by chance. Most people believe in the Darwinian model that it is the fittest that survives, and it is the weakest that dies. Why, my proponents will exclaim, it is in Nature and all around, so it is natural that it will happen - someone wins! It is as natural as breathing, and many would grin with a smirk on their face. We are trained and perfected in our higher learning institutions to succeed in our field; therefore, we must conquer or be conquered. So, we enter into the working world with the attitude



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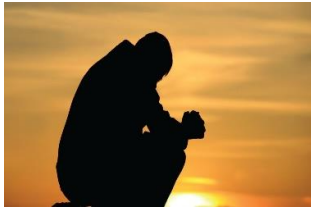
that we must fight and force our way up, thus defeating anyone in the way. Equally, never let my guard down, or I am dead. Ask anyone at the top of the ladder how they got there, and they will tell you it was no picnic, but battle after battle, making compromises and deals, and most of all, believing in yourself. By the time you are twenty and starting your career or vocation, you are bursting with energy to rise like a helium balloon. You see it as your mission to be the best at what you do; that desire constantly fuels you. You dream about it every day. By forty, if you are not already at the top, you are on your way down. The ones that eventually make it to the very top are our leaders today. And I don't just mean politicians, CEOs, and managers. It can be anyone who has been promoted to be a leader in their job. By the way, have you noticed that everything we make is designed to win or better the competition in some sort of way, for example, man-made cars to take him from A to B and cars made to race to win? Man made airplanes to travel more larger distances, and airplanes are also made to destroy other planes and people – to win. We build bigger, higher, faster, and more powerful everything to win. We design and invent to win. Just about anything we make has this philosophy behind it. This is how the world thinks and functions. To go against this grain of thinking means death so we think. Does anyone dare to stop and think for a minute about this belief and model? Is it even human? I tell you; this is an animal instinct that is not worthy of our consideration. Animals are programmed from birth, and it is in their DNA that to survive, they must kill or be killed. They do not have an option because this is how Nature works. They kill to live, and there is nothing wrong with it. Just a small point here. We are the only species of animals who kill our own species, and to top it off, we do it for fun. Animals eat other animals of another kind to survive, and they will play with their prey before they kill it, but it is not for fun; it is for training. Also, animals will not kill beyond the amount of what they need to eat. They don't find a snow patch somewhere to freeze their prey. ☺ We kill out of lust and greed, and we freeze our prey. How did we fall into this hole? How are we going to get out of it? It is this attitude and belief in survival of the fittest that has laid waste to the world. It may be a thing of Nature, but it is not human. We are not animals; we are spirits in human flesh. We are separate from our friends in the animal world because we have two things they do not. A spirit and a mind. We have a mind that allows us to exercise intelligence, morality, and wisdom that is embedded in our spirit. Animals do not have this capacity; thus, they cannot be judged for killing. Instead, the Scripture states we were created a little lower than the Angels. *"You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor"* Tehillim (Psalm) 8:5 (NIV). We are the crown of the animal world. We are the height of all creatures Eloah created. Animals do not come anywhere near what has been given to us. We are wonderfully and fearfully made, said King David (Tehillim (Psalm) 139:14). You are the marvel of Creation. How, then, did we descend to a level that is lower than the animals? Was it sin, our pride, or perhaps greed that got us here? Ah, maybe we can all blame Darwin for revealing the workings of Nature to us. No, these things are the fruit of something much deeper. Something hereditary that, if not understood, will always trip us over and lead us down this path of destruction. Allow me to digress for a minute to explain it in the next heading. **The god desire.** You may not know this about yourself, but in everyone is the desire to become a "god." You were born with it. This is what drives this insatiable desire to get to the top. People will never stop wanting to be a king, a ruler, or a god in whatever field they pursue in life. It is programmed in our DNA because we are part of Elohim. We were created in the image of a Being who is All-powerful, All-seeing, and All-everything, so we want to be like our Daddy. We are a chip off the old block, so to speak. So, we will naturally want to rule over other lifeforms and seek to dominate them and bring them into subjection and be their god. Why do you think Elohim told Adam to rule over the animals and bring order to their kingdom? *"God blessed and said to them, "Be fruitful and*

PART FOUR

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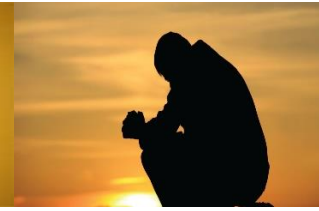
increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground" Beresheeth (Genesis) 1:28 (NIV). Did you get that? Eloah knew us better than we know ourselves! Elohim understood that Adam was created with this innate desire to become a "god." Now, I do not mean by this that we can be immortal and play "God." No! And it is never ever possible. Instead, we are mortals built with this desire to be supreme in whatever we do. In a nutshell to be a god of a sort in your field but not a "god" yourself. There is a big difference. We all have read about the nutcases in history who actually crossed this line and declared themselves literally a god. Remember the Pharaohs of Egypt, the Caesars of Rome, the Emperors of China and Japan, etc. Mortal men who rose so high in the Sky that they believed they were immortal until they died and were buried. Their tombs are the monuments of their vanity and insanity. Sadly, the world never gives up on this idea. We want to be immortal and a "god." So, we spend hundreds of billions of dollars unlocking our DNA, reverse aging, and discovering the secrets of creation and the atoms so that we can rule or perhaps create our own parallel Universe at some stage. We have deceived ourselves into thinking that Elohim did not realize this would happen and that we have caught Him by surprise. A rabbi once said in a parable referring to Eloah. 'Oh, my children have defeated Me.' Does anyone realize how old Elohim is? Guess a number, now multiply that by infinity, take that to the depths of forever, and you still will barely have a glimpse of what I'm talking about. From the movie Joe Black. ☺ Compare that with 6000 years of our existence, and you should get an idea of how ridiculous the pursuit is. It is just vanity, tampering with what we cannot change. Yes, we will eventually prolong our life span to the age of 300 plus, as the Word predicts, but it will come when Eloah decides we are ready. Our mortality should have taught humanity a key lesson long ago, but we are unwilling to receive it. We are not special, that is above the animals, but we have been given an extra responsibility to make sure our brothers, the animals, are looked after and do not become a threat to themselves. That is, one species wipes out another. It does not mean we subject them to torture, starvation, and death. And if you are willing to accept it, do not eat them. We have a lot to answer for. **A doormat.** Wait a minute! Are you advocating we become a door mat, lie down, and let everyone walk over us? How can I allow that to happen to me? Do you realize the implications of what you are saying? Are we now to tolerate failure, incompetency, losses, theft, defaults, etc.? Why civilization will cease to exist most will object! Commerce and countries will fail everywhere. There will be chaos because no one wants to be a doormat, i.e., a slave. It is this fear-motivated attitude that brought us to the point where we are today and prolonged our captivity in the mindset of the world. The Scriptures do not advocate we become a doormat for any person or thing. Yes, it teaches submission, but it is not what we think. It is submission in the love of one another, and if, as believers, we do it, there is no fear or gain in it. The pinnacle passage on submission in the Word is in Ephsiyah (Ephesians) 5:21-28. The context in the passage is about family, the Church, and Christ and not the fear of our enemies. *"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So, ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself"* Ephesians 5:21-28 (KJV). Do you see anywhere in there anything about becoming a doormat for people to walk over you? The duty is upon each believer to submit to each other before this can properly work. The Word does not say only one party



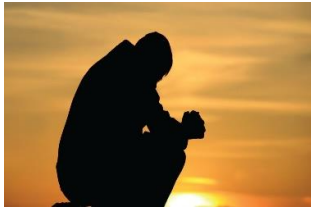
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needs to submit. Scriptural submission is mutual submission. Elsewhere in the Scriptures, it says, *"How can two walk together unless they are agreed?"* Ahmos (Amos) 3:3 (NIV). Two must mutually submit to each other out of the fear of Eloah for submission to work in any way. As long as believers live with this fear that being a doormat means accepting and tolerating failure, we will never get anywhere. Therefore, we are not to become a doormat for anyone, including our enemies! Our failure to heed the teachings of the Messiah and Apostle is what has caused the damage and destruction we see constantly reported in the media. War and battles in the family, society, communities, schools, towns, and cities across the globe. No one, including many believers, wants to submit. They prefer to be doormats because then we can maintain this hell pit of winning. However, it starts with one party making the move first! Sadly, it is always the woman or the children. The male ego feels he does not need to be the first one to do it. So, it goes on and on. We wonder why the infighting, the backstabbing, the lies, the betrayals, and the cheating happen to us. The physically superior needs to voluntarily become the inferior first if anything is ever going to change in ourselves and our homes. True leaders lead by example, and their actions speak louder than their words. A father never asks his wife or children to do something he is not prepared to do himself. Submission is a beautiful thing when understood in the context of the Son of Eloah and the Abba Father. Yeshua said, *"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me"* Yochanan (John) 3:38. (NIV). For Yeshua, submission to the Father was not an option but a requirement. That is why he is my hero and the only example I need. **Love your enemies.** It was Yeshua who taught us this. Seriously, this took me a long time to master. I am a Sagittarius (November), and my sign says that part of the character trait of a Sagittarius is that we do not forget. I am not a stargazer or a sign chaser, but I do feel that some of this stuff makes sense. I have a hard time forgetting the evil others have done to me. To love my enemy remains my hardest challenge because they never go away. As Paul put it, they are like a thorn in the flesh (Qorintyah Bet (Second Corinthians 12:7-10). We will always have enemies. So what is Yeshua's answer to this? Yeshua put his solution in a most iconic way; he said, *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"* Mattityahu (Matthew) 5:44-48 (NKJV). Notice the contrast between believers and the tax collectors in the above passage and why tax collectors. They were the guys with the money, the fame, and the look. They had what most people did not have at the time: a cut of the king's gold. They charged a commission for what they collected, and they were always invited to the king's banquets. They were property owners, and they wore the best tunics and drove the best camels. ☺ The tax collectors were not always respected, but they were admired and looked upon as the ideal job in the kingdom. Yeshua saw them as the worst of the bunch, so to speak, which is why he uses them as not-so-ideal examples of jobs in the kingdom. One of them, Matthew, the tax collector, became a leading disciple of his. Love your enemies, bless your enemies, pray for them, and do not curse or hate them. This is what no tax collector could do because he will be out of a job like the infamous Zakias (Luka (Luke) 19:1-10). What the heck is Yeshua saying? Is he saying it is alright to be a doormat, to lose your dignity and life? One could easily come to this conclusion, and many have and are injured or dead from this foolish interpretation. I do not believe this is what Yeshua meant or any other prophet in the Bible. We need to put this iconic teaching of Yeshua in context alongside other statements he said that relate to this topic. It is an easy and common mistake among

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believers to take Scriptures out of context. The rabbis realized this a long time ago and made many laws for interpreting Scripture. I just do not have time to show you here. The relevant passage here is Luka (Luke) 17:3-4, Yeshua also said, "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him" (ESV). Now remove the word "brother" in the text above and replace it with the word "enemy" and read it again. Do you see it? IF YOUR ENEMY REPENTS! You cannot forgive or offer forgiveness to a person who does not repent, brother or enemy, but it remains the same. So, if our enemy or brother does not want to repent, how can we forgive or love them? We can't and must not because we will then violate a pinnacle principle of Scripture: REPENTENCE! Yeshua is not saying we must forgive anyone and thus allow them to walk over us again and again. He is saying to wait till they come to that point of asking for you for forgiveness, like the prodigal son who realized his mistake and repented. In the meantime, all you can do is love them through prayer and do what you can to keep the peace. The key is not to hate them (curse them) but to pray and fast for them. And what if they persist and do not repent after a time, then let Eloah sort them out? It is acceptable to lose in this way. To step back and let Eloah in. Why? Because when you decide to lose, you are perfect like your Father in Heaven. Above all, a true leader in the Kingdom understands that their place of power and authority lies in their willingness to let go of winning! Contrast this with the philosophy of the world: kill your enemies. And what if my enemy tries to kill me or harm my family? This happens. Then let the law deal with them, but don't react, act! Use the justice system to bring the person to their senses. Elohim does not hold you responsible for their stupidity or evil. Should they repent and ask for forgiveness, you are obligated under Scripture to forgive them; therefore, they must restore what damage they did or what they took, and you are free to help them. **The loser.** We choose to live in prisons all the time because this World does not understand the freedom of being the loser. The lesson in Matthew five goes onto another level unheard of at the time of Yeshua and unmatched today; "If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away" Mattityahu (Matthew) 5:40-42 (NKJV). Do you realize what Yeshua is saying here? It is not only acceptable to lose, but it is better to lose. How can this possibly end in good, some of us fear? Wait a minute and think about this a little bit longer. Let it digest like a good salad. Why not! Become the loser for a change? Let your brother be the victor. Give your brother your tunic and coat to him who sues you, go with your brother the extra mile, and give to him who asks of you. Just one point here. The context indicates it is your brother who is the offender and not an enemy. The enemy has no desire for your gifts or generosity. It is this crazy kind of radical thinking that will change the world if we allow it. But how do we do it on a personal level? This is the subject of the heading after, so I will not elaborate on it here. Instead, I want to talk to you about the greatest man who ever lived, according to Yeshua. The greatest man in the Kingdom was not Yeshua, believe it or not. It was John the Baptist! Yeshua himself told us this; "Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist, yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" Mattityahu (Matthew) 11:11. Why was John the greatest man in the Kingdom? Most people will say because John the Baptist was no ordinary preacher, he was "the man" who was sent to prepare the way for the Messiah. That is why he is the greatest. Yes, I agree, but there was much more; John the Baptist is "the valley" mentioned in Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 40:3, and the glory in verse 5 was to be revealed. In the above Scripture, Yeshua revealed the glory and exalted the valley. Have a look at it. The prophecy about the Messiah's work does not begin until verse 9, when it says, "O Zion... Say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!'" (NKJV). John, after he met the Messiah knew



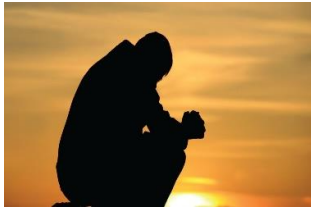
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what these prophecies meant, there would come a time when *"He must increase, and I decrease"* Yochanan (John) 3:30. To the point where John gave his life as Yeshua did for us. To John, losing his ministry and his life was never a fright or a fight; he understood the pathway of the Kingdom. The loser always wins in "the economy" of Elohim's kingdom. He gets the rewards and inherits the Kingdom. I like to see John as the angel who never lost his wings. ☺ He was promoted to glory as the greatest man born among women who ever lived because he lived in a time when everyone thought the opposite. No one wanted the loser's way. Remember Yeshua scolding the Rabbis for they wanted to be first in everything (Luka (Luke) 11:43-50). In Kingdom philosophy, losing and the loser was understood as the PATHWAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. Winning and the winner were perceived as the pathway of the evil one. The pathway of righteousness is all about learning to sacrifice our ego, our most prized possessions, and our lives for the Kingdom. When a rich man came to Yeshua and wanted to justify himself by telling the Messiah he kept all the commandments of Eloah since his youth, Yeshua decided to cut to the core of his quest and told the man he had one final step to make to become perfect, *"One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me"* Marqus (Mark) 10:21. Sadly, the rich man could not do it! Why? Because the pathway of righteousness demands that we learn and decide to lose. Actually, the rich man had another choice, and I hope he found it later. The second best thing this man could have done was to hand his inheritance to his family and follow Yeshua. I am sure the Messiah would have accepted this compromise since the Law of Moses does not prohibit a man from giving his inheritance to his wife and children. The point of the lesson is quite simple if we want to see it. *"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it"* Luka (Luke) 9:25 (NIV). Did you notice the word "lose" and "loses" in one sentence? What does it mean to lose your life? Elsewhere in the Gospels, Yeshua explains, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain"* Yochanan (John) 12:24. To make sense of this let's combine the two Scriptures. To lose your life is to be like a grain that falls into the ground and dies, producing much grain. You didn't think he meant to die physically, did you; if you did, then what use are we to Eloah dead? It sounds silly, but many have taken this conclusion to their shame. I have prayed for a lot of sick people who tell me they should die and be with Christ, to which I always respond, 'Heaven does not need brother or sister; they need you here, and we do also!' They never seem to understand; Elohim does not want them to die. As the Psalmist wrote, *"I shall not die but live, and declare the works of YHWH"* Psalm 188:17. The secret is this! It is in losing ourselves – that is, our will, our plans, our way, our desires, and our everything in ATTITUDE and BELIEF that we will begin to live and produce more good, happiness, love, hope, and peace in our lives and for others. For heaven's sake, we are not expected to give away all our goods to the poor or become poor ourselves because that does not solve anything. And many other Scriptures tell us Eloah delights to prosper us. **The losing.** First, you can't have "a losing" without a loser. I have a friend who was born to be a champion. He wins at everything, and I am not kidding! If you play chess with him, he outwits you; if you play pool with him, he out-sinks you; if you play golf or tennis with him, he understrokes you. It does not matter the game he is programmed to win. And worst of all, he is shorter and smaller than me. If Yeshua met this guy, his one demand of him, like the Rich man, would be, 'Lose all your games and come follow me.' ☺ To which I think he would reply, 'Master, I have won all my life, and losing to me is not an option. You could use a man like me in your ministry. I will play all your golf games, pool, and chest matches, and you will win. I would say Amen, brother. But Yeshua would reply, 'But I don't like golf, pool, or chest; I prefer yoga. ☺ Ok, enough with the humor. Losing to an angel is as natural as breathing. In Heaven, no one desires or even thinks

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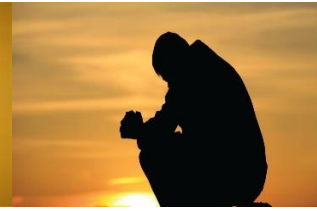
about winning. Why? Everything is free! You don't have to compete for anything because everything is in abundance and available all the time. The motivation, therefore, is to lose. If you play with an angel in any game, the angel does not desire or want to win, although he could thrash you without blinking an eyelid. He does not care; all he wants is to see the joy on your face because you won. The joy is his reward. Remember the face of your mother when you won as a child or when you let a child win; that is how an angel looks. The Apostle Paul got the idea and learned through the master's way; "...I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times, I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea.... *If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness*" Qorintyah Bet (Second Corinthians) 11:23-27 (NIV). Wow, I don't know if I could do that. Paul could have just as easily said in the underlined part, 'Show my losing!' There is no record in the Word of Paul resisting or fighting his captives. He allowed himself to be beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, jailed, and hungry, and Eloah knows what else he suffered all the while he was a Roman citizen. Paul knew the secret so many of us do not want to learn. It is in losing that we become the winner. Thus, we should boast of our weaknesses or losses because that is how we will get Eloah's attention, and He will surely act on our behalf. And when Eloah acts, for instance, He will not only bring the person to justice, but along the way, He will fix the system as a bonus to ensure it does not happen again. It can equally be another adverse situation; it matters not the principle does not change. King David got the secret thousands of years ago. He said, "*The Lord is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth. He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;... the Lord our God will destroy them. Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve*" Tehillim (Psalm) 94 (NIV). This is reinforced by many scriptures. Just do a search on this phrase, "*Vengeance is mine says YHWH,*" and you will see. We don't have to concern ourselves with the justice part or the loss we have experienced. He will repay and reward you accordingly. I know this for a fact! I, too, have seen my enemies bite the dust because of the evil they have done against me, and Eloah has recompensed me for not reacting. The key was I had to surrender my right to "payback" and plead my cause with Elohim. I had to do my "losing" and chose to become the loser. The right to rewrite a wrong is the hardest thing to surrender, especially if you know you have the power and the means to correct it. But it is a choice we must make daily to walk the way of losing. **The Master's way.** Many countless Christians and Jews have been martyred for their faith. Many died horrible and unimaginable deaths. Some were tortured for weeks and months before dying. Some methods of killing are far more painful than crucifixion, like being stretched, boiled, or burnt alive. Even experimented on. The point is this: thousands of Jews and Christians were tortured and crucified by the Romans. Yeshua was just one of them, but why was his death so special that Christians all around the world sing about it? Have you ever thought about this? Name one so-called "god" who specifically came down to Earth to die for His creation. Did the Byblonian gods, Ishtar, Nabu, Apshu, Shamash, Ea, Tiamat, Nergal, Marduk, and Adad die for their people? Did Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva the main gods of the Romans, die for the Romans? What about the Greeks? Did the Greek god Zeus or Apollos do it? What about the religious founders Krishna, Buddha, and Mohammed? Did they die for their people? No, they did not! Yahweh, the Elohim of Yisra'el, came to Earth as a person of Yeshua and died for His people. The Word states, "*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself to the point of death, even the death of the*"



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cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Yeshua every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Yeshua Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" Phylipsiyah (Philippians) 2:5-11 (NKJV). You can say Halleluiah! Do you know what this phrase means? It means Praise Yah. The short form of the name of the Eloah of Yisra'el. The above Scripture reveals it all, doesn't it? This is why his death and resurrection are special. It was not Yeshua who died on the cross, but Yahweh the Elohim of Yisra'el. You won't believe it; many believers still don't understand this fundamental truth because the Church has wanted us to believe Yeshua was someone else and not the Eloah of Yisra'el for many years. Yeshua made this very clear to his disciples after probing him about his real identity. They knew he was the Messiah, but who is the Messiah? A man or Eloah, what about both? "Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Yeshua said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him" Yochanan (John) 14:5-7 (NKJV). "Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Yeshua said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" Yochanan (John) 14:8-9 (NKJV). "I and My Father are one" Yochanan (John) 10:30 (NKJV). How much more clearly can Yeshua make it? This is the crux: Yahweh was tortured and crucified, He died and was resurrected. This is the Master's way of showing us humility, obedience, dying to self, selfless love, loving others, sacrifice, and losing. Show me an Eloah "God" who did this, and I will gladly come, bow down, worship him/her, and follow him/her for the rest of my days. The thing is that you will never find a "god" who did this for his people. Most of these so-called gods are all busy trying to get you to win or be a god yourself. Paul said, LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU as it was also in the Messiah! - The way of the Master. **The pain**. How do you deal with the pain of losing? I want to be honest with you, not that I was ever dishonest at any time with you. It is just a habit of speech we often say. I have struggled with the memory of the pain of loss at times, especially when something triggers it and I am reminded of the event. It is hard to forget the pain from losing, and I don't mean losing a silly game. I am talking about the pain from the devastation or injury you suffered. For example, how do you tell a man who got divorced and has lost his house and kids that the pain will go away? What about a woman whose groom did not turn up at their wedding? What about the father whose son has committed murder and is on death row? What about the mother whose daughter was raped? Pain is pain no matter what form we experience it. Pain always leaves wounds. The thing is, not all wounds are the same. Some wounds are on the surface, but others run deep. It is the deep kind described above that is hard to deal with. With time, all wounds do heal, but the ones with the deep scars often never heal. Now and then, when the conditions are familiar, it festers, and the wound breaks out into a sore again, but not as bad as before. You burst out crying or raise your voice in anger. When the sun sets, it heals again, maybe in a day or two, but it never really disappears. Why is the wound still there? There is an ancient secret in the Word to heal deep wounds, and you have probably read the Scripture many times before. Here is the secret to healing or preventing those wounds from festering. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother" Yochanan Alef (First John) 4:18-21 (ESV). The secret is PERFECT LOVE! I will unfold. King David had a peculiar love for King Saul. He protected him and would not lift his hand

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against him in word or deed. Many times, King Saul tried to murder David and even took his land and wife away from him. Saul pursued him relentlessly to the point of driving him into the land of his enemies. Many of David's men were killed. Despite this, David survived and prospered. You can read about the story of Saul and David in Schmu'el Alef (First Samuel), chapters 9-31. Personally, I would have probably killed King Saul. How do you love or even respect a man like this who wants to kill you, your family, and your people relentlessly? He is like a dagger that keeps on opening up the wound. The answer is, *"Perfect love casts out all fear."* Let me rephrase it for you and apply it to our subject: PERFECT LOVE HEALS ALL WOUNDS. What is perfect love? This is the love of Eloah. You have to love the person - "the wound maker" with the love of Yeshua because human love cannot fix or take away the pain. Human love runs out, and the pain returns. This was David's secret? Read Tehillim (Psalm) 103 in its entirety, and you will understand what I am saying and pray it over your situation. Take special note of the type of love David mentions - the steadfast love of Eloah. This is another term for perfect love. A love that does not fade with time and overcomes the pain all the time. This is the love of Yeshua for us and is in us. Two final lessons remain here. You have heard it said many times, "No pain, no gain." I don't mind the pain of exercise because I know I feel so much better when it is over. Though, this does not equate to the pain of loss. Perhaps this example will shed light. Ask any mother who has had a child what the pain is like and how they feel after the child is born, and you will get the idea. Child birthing is excruciating, but do you think a mother cares? The child is the reward for the pain. So, too, does a wound have a reward? The losses you suffered are the rewards you have won. The tally of your reward is made in Heaven and revealed on Judgement Day. At the end of time, we will all stand before the Great White Throne to receive what we did in the flesh (Gilyahna (Revelation) 20:11-15). What is not generally understood about this judgment is that there are two distinct judgments. One for believers (2 Corinthians) 5:10 – the first judgment and the other for unbelievers (Gilyahna (Revelation) 20:11-15) – the second judgment. For believers, it is not about Heaven or Hell because your name is written in the Book of Life. *"There is no condemnation for those who are in Messiah Yeshua"* (Romiyah (Romans) 8:1). But it is about rewards from the bad and good we have done in the flesh. The losses that you thought were pain and indignation were really the basis of the rewards you receive. The losses that you failed to accept because you decided to react and do something about it, like never talking to your friend again. ☺ It turned out to be negative on your reward tally. Seriously, the Word says some believers will come through this Judgment with just the odor of fire on their clothes. Meaning they received very little to show from their time here on Earth (Qorintyah Alef (First Corinthians) 3:10–15). I hope I am not talking about you. The second lesson is this: we live in an imperfect world, so stuff happens to iron out the crinkles in our world. According to Murphy's Law, what we think will not happen will happen because the crinkles are ingrained in our imperfect world, whether we perceive it or not, requiring a fix. Likewise, it is true with our character. No one is born perfect; we all need fixing! The Rabbis call this tikun (the repairing). Thus, we will experience the chastisement of pain and loss to repair us until the end of time. Even Eloah experienced the concept of loss before Yeshua came to Earth. Amazingly, Elohim knew all along that Satan would rebel against Him and bring havoc to the Universe. The same havoc he creates here. Why did Eloah, in His divinity and pre-eminence, not destroy Lucifer before he did his bad stuff and led a third of his angels in rebellion against Him? **The answer is Tikun Olam.** Even angels need repairing. The other reason why Eloah looked ahead and knew about us and the crinkles in our character would need to be ironed out. The rebel in us who does not want to lose. ☺ So Elohim prepared the devil to create the loss and pain situations to perfect us and, in turn bless, His beautiful World. This message comes from our book *The Art of Losing*, we pray it has blessed you and given you another perspective of life.