

WHEN THE WINNERS LOSE, AND THE LOSERS WIN



“So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Matthew 20

In this world...

There are winners and losers.

There are strong and weak.

There are rich and poor.

In the Kingdom of God everything is reversed.

“Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied.

Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh.

Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man!

Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.



But woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation.

Woe to you that are full now, for you shall hunger.

Woe to you that laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

Woe to you, when all men speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.”

Luke 6

This is not fantasy.

This is how it is.

The God of the Universe is not blind to human suffering.



Nor is he blind to human cruelty and indifference.

Until the Kingdom arrives, the winners will keep winning and the losers will keep losing.

But soon this will change.

It will change the minute we die, as the Lord makes clear in the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus.

And when the New Jerusalem arrives, once again the last will be first and the first last.

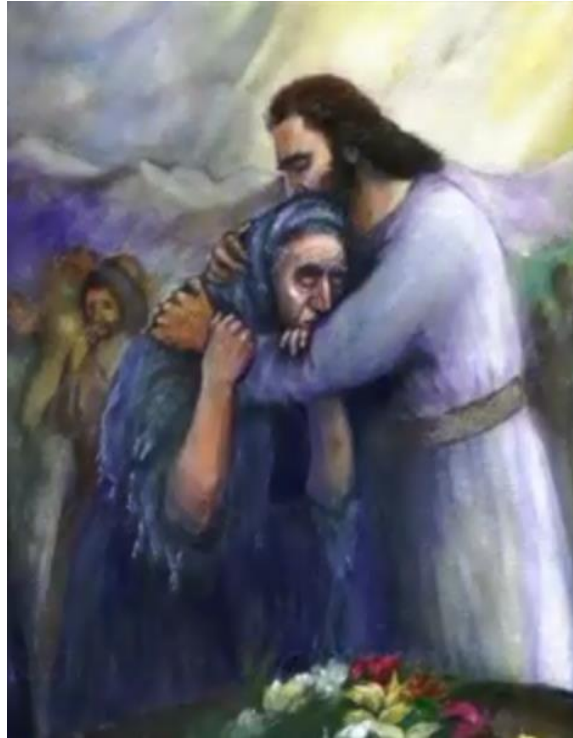
Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and every one who loves and practices falsehood.

Revelation 22

If you are a winner, you might consider becoming a “loser” for God’s kingdom.

If you are a loser, take heart! Your day of redemption is near!



Prayer: Lord, when we feel like losers, feel lost and alone bring us your comfort...that our reward will be in your priceless embrace. Yes, help to take heart in this, and to rejoice. And if in this world we are considered winners...keep us empathetic, humble, gracious, generous, kind and ever aware that we are no more loved, no more worthy than the poorest beggar. Help us to willingly make ourselves last for the sake of your mercy. Amen.

Maranatha Mirror

Message: Richard E. Bieber November 2020

Featured Art: Permission and kindness of Darlene Slavujac Thau on Facebook (most pieces are studies. Darlene also has a YouTube Channel in which she sets her art to songs she plays and sings. <https://www.youtube.com/repentbelieve1>)

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN