



Part Three: Don't Write God Out of the Script // Carey Nieuwhof //

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You probably have a picture of what God should be doing...the way the story should go. Except it doesn't always turn out that way. As a result, many people conclude that God isn't real, or that he isn't all-powerful or all-loving. But what if, in the very moment you thought God was losing, he is actually winning? And what if that's true in your life too? You think God is losing...but he's winning.

Scripture: [Luke 23:32-46](#) NLT

Bottom Line: At the very moment everyone thinks God is losing, God is winning.

Getting Started:

1. Was there anything from this message that stood out to you, surprised you, or stirred up curiosity in you?
2. Describe a time when you thought you were certain to fail, but it didn't turn out that way. What did you learn in that season?

Jumping In:

3. Imagine being a disciple of Jesus watching the events unfold in [Luke 23:32-46](#). What would you have been thinking and feeling as you watched Jesus' execution?
4. Jesus' death was followed by a day with no visible signs of God doing anything other than Jesus remaining in the grave. Have you had a season where defeat seemed permanent?
5. The heart of the Christian faith is that Jesus rose from the dead so sin could be defeated and all humanity could be saved. How surprising do you think the resurrection would have been to you after watching Jesus die?
6. There were clues in [Luke 23:32-46](#) (like the tearing of the temple veil) that God was at work even though everyone thought he was losing. Think about a current struggle in your life. Do you see any signs that God is at work, even though it feels like he isn't?

7. How can you be intentional about looking for evidence of God's activity in your life, especially when it's hard to see on the surface?
8. Have you written God out of the script of your life? How so? What would it mean to write him back into your story?
9. "At the very moment everyone thinks God is losing, God is winning." How do you think that might be true today?

Moving Forward:

God does his best work when everyone thinks he has disappeared. This week, take some time to do these two things:

- Identify a desperate time in your life in the past when you thought God had abandoned you, but it's clear now he didn't.
 - a. Ask, "What was God doing at that moment?"
 - b. Ask, "What was I doing at that moment?"
 - c. Surrender that moment to God.
- Identify a moment in your life currently where you're not sensing God's presence, or you've reached the conclusion that he's absent. What might actually be happening?

Surrender your present moment to God, and see what he does with it. When everyone thinks God is losing, God is winning.

Changing Your Mind:

"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love."

Romans 8:38 NLT