



**Letting Go**

---

**Saying Goodbye**



# Loss Is Life

---

- **23** And Jesus \*answered them, saying, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.** **25** He who loves his **[h]**life loses it, and he who hates his **[i]**life in this world will keep it to life eternal. **26** If anyone **[i]**serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone **[k]**serves Me, the Father will honor him.



# Hope in This Promise

---

- <sup>3</sup> Now we do not want you to be uninformed,<sup>[a]</sup> brothers and sisters,<sup>[b]</sup> about those who are asleep,<sup>[c]</sup> **so that you will not grieve like the rest who have no hope.** <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so also we believe that<sup>[d]</sup> God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep as Christians.<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>15</sup> For we tell you this by the word of the Lord,<sup>[f]</sup> that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep.



# Party On, Dudes!

---

- **16** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, <sup>[g]</sup> and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive, who are left, <sup>[h]</sup> will be suddenly caught up <sup>[i]</sup> together <sup>[j]</sup> with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.



# Grief Antidote

---

- <sup>3</sup> Blessed is<sup>[d]</sup> the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> **who comforts us in all our troubles<sup>[e]</sup> so that we may be able to comfort those experiencing any trouble<sup>[f]</sup> with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.** <sup>5</sup> For just as the sufferings<sup>[g]</sup> of Christ<sup>[h]</sup> overflow<sup>[i]</sup> toward us, so also our comfort through Christ overflows to you.

- Comfort = you are NOT Alone



# Letting Go, Saying Goodbye

---

- Here is the headline; loss is life, woven into every minute of every day
- The only certainty in this life is the inevitability of loss and the faithfulness of God
- Some losses are sudden, shocking and relentlessly, crushingly painful
- We are launched into grief, but there is always hope
- **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.(Romans 12)



# Good News, YOU ARE

---

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY