

A painting of Jesus Christ standing on a hill, looking out over a landscape with a cross in the distance. The text "THE KING & HIS Cross" is overlaid on the image. The word "THE" is in a serif font, "KING &" is in a mix of serif and script, and "HIS Cross" is in a script font. The background is a warm, golden-brown landscape with a cross visible on the horizon.

THE KING &
HIS Cross

We Let Go Because We Love

Matthew 16: 24–28

What are you holding on to?

What are you holding on to so tightly that it may be keeping you from following Jesus more freely?

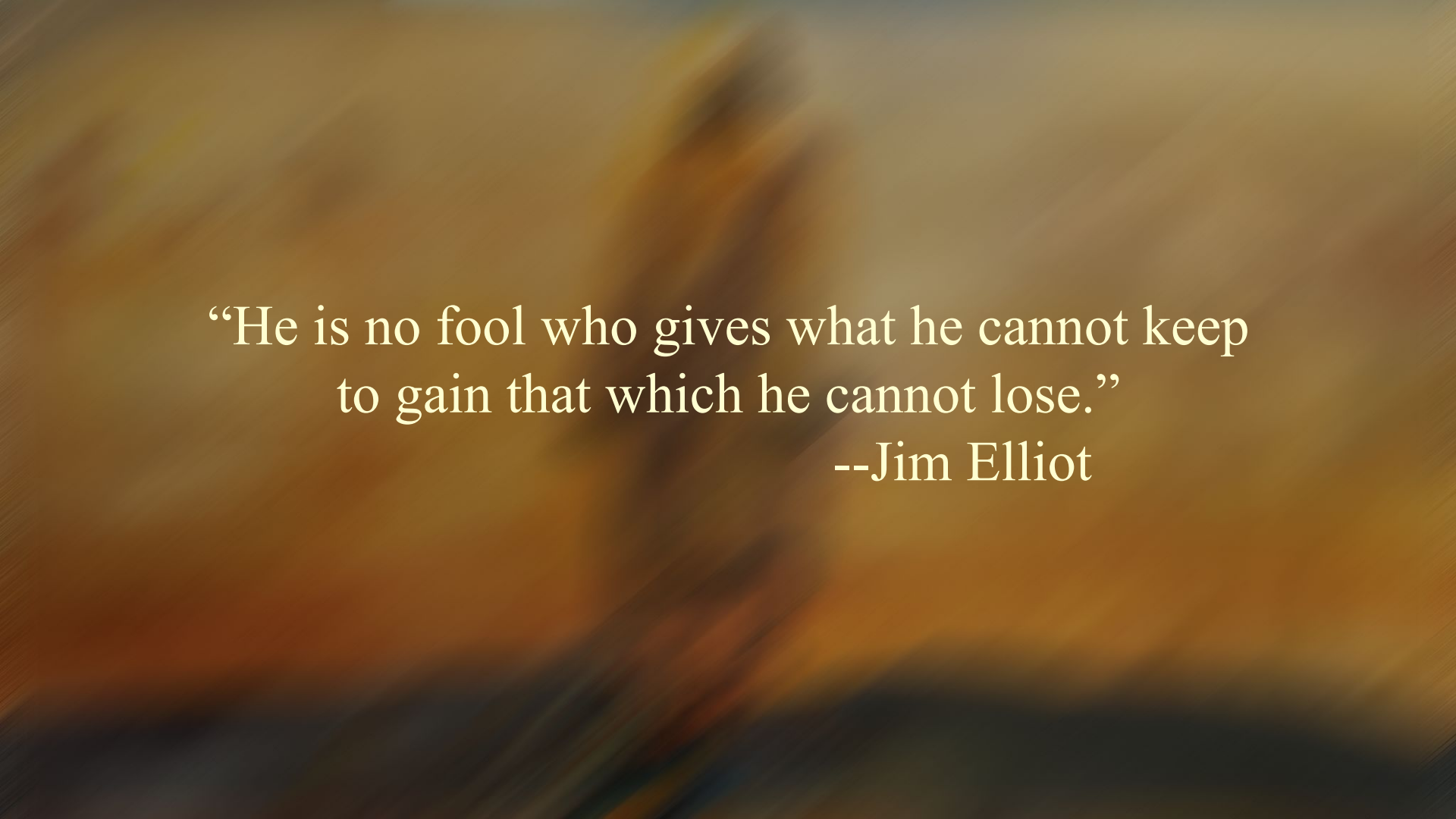
Because we love Jesus, we can surrender the life we cannot keep to gain the life we cannot lose.

Matthew 16

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

“Eighty-six years I have served him,
and he never did me any wrong.”

--Polycarp



“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep
to gain that which he cannot lose.”

--Jim Elliot

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for
You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Matthew 16

25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it.

26 For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life?

Ecclesiastes 5:10

The one who loves silver is never satisfied with silver,
and whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with income.
This too is futile.

Can the Christian make wise investments to gain wealth?

Does that mean our security or identity rests in what we possess?

Can the Christian still enjoy what God provides?

The world says, “Live your truth and become your authentic self.”
The gospel says, “Deny yourself and become who God created you to be.”

The world says, “Protect your comfort and avoid anything too costly.”

The gospel says, “Self-denial and obedience to Jesus are worth the cost.”

The world says, “Measure your life by what you gain.”

The gospel says, “Measure your life by what is found in Christ,
not in yourself”

The world says, “Hold tightly to your life.”

The gospel says, “Lose your life for Christ and find what
this world cannot give”

Matthew 16

27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each according to what he has done.

28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The cost of discipleship

The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to death.

The cost of discipleship

Thus, it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him, or it may be a death like Luther's, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time—death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call. --Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Will you let go?

It is because we love Jesus, we can surrender the life we cannot keep to gain the life we cannot lose.