

Philippians 3:7, "But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ."

#### TAKE THE WORLD BUT GIVE ME CHRIST

Sometimes love refuses to be free. In Exodus 21:5 a man who came to the master's house as an unwilling servant has found and learned love there.

When

the seven years were ended and he was offered his freedom, he was heard to say, "I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free."

This is love's refusal. Lovers just don't want to be freed; they're bound with ties they've come to love.

Now and then I like to imagine Jesus Christ meeting Paul on some dusty, far-from-home road. The young Master and the old missionary. "Paul, do you ever wish you hadn't committed so much?" the Christ might say. "In your weariness and frustration, do you ever feel like walking away from squabbling little churches and indifferent societies?"

The older man might say, "Ah, Lord, sometimes I'm depressed and disappointed. Sometimes I'm angry at my critics, irritated by the brothers and sisters and discouraged by the thoughtless crowds. Now and then when I'm

terribly lonely I get tired of the beatings, tired of running through the streets with mobs at my heels, tired of being lied about and tired of thankless humans. But where would I go? Who else would love me as you do? No,

Lord, there's nowhere I'd want to go if you weren't there. You're all I'll ever want."

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