

1. Winners and Losers (Well you may have heard that there is the big game happening tonight. The Super Bowl is now a cultural phenomenon that pretty much everyone gets swept up into one way or another. And in just a few hours the team that wins the game will be celebrating and celebrated—with rewards aplenty: ticker tape flowing down, trips to Disney in their future; fist pumping and dancing their way to the Super Bowl trophy—forever heroes. Meanwhile the losers will lower their heads, slink off the field in defeat and promptly be forgotten. And that is the way is pretty much is across our culture. Go to any school/any athletic event/to many workplaces and there you will see clear winners and losers. And being a product of our culture—that is, socially conditioned by our surroundings—we, like most everyone else will naturally gravitate to the winners. **We're Number One!** We have even created an industry around it—complete with pithy sayings)
2. (Slides with quotes—it all sounds pretty good, right? Maybe some truth there, perhaps? But I wonder how these might have sounded to this woman?)
3. John 4:1-26 (She was the walking definition of a loser and her interaction and conversation with Christ offers us great insight into what Jesus thought about winners and losers—call it the kingdom cultural phenomenon; an entire different kind of not-of-this-world social conditioning)
4. In God's Kingdom:
 - a. Losers are the focus—Mathew 11:3-5 (Go tell John)
 - b. Losers are the blessed—Matthew 5:3-12 (Beatitudes)
 - c. Losers are the winners—Matthew 10:39 (Lose life to find it)
5. “So the last will be first and the first will be last.” Matthew 20:16; Luke 16:19-31 (illustrated by the rich man and Lazarus story)
6. So...
 - a. Let's lose our life to find it
 - b. Let's reach out to “the others” (just like Christ did)
7. “Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play.”—Mike Singletary (God gives us all the opportunity to play! Everyone starts. Everyone can make a difference!)