

1 LOSING IT

- Why are so many cool people—losing their composer?

2 Alex Baldwin

- In April 2007, Alex Baldwin “loses it.”
- Embroiled in a custody fight with his ex-wife, Kim Basinger and frustrated with his daughter Ireland for not keeping a pre-schedule phone call, Alex Baldwin goes into a fit of rage.
- He calls his daughter, among other things, a “rude, thoughtless little pig.”
- However, the phone message is recorded and is rebroadcast everywhere.
- Baldwin is humiliated and later apologizes.

3 Celebrities Losing It

- Even perky Katie Couric has been known to leave underlings trembling with fear following bursts of anger, withering glances and cutting snide remarks.
- Actor Charlie Sheen was recently hospitalized for a psychiatric evaluation after a woman told police he was throwing furniture and yelling in his hotel room—during a drunken, naked rampage.
 - He had lost his cell phone.

4 Author Robert Frost

- Beloved poet Robert Frost was also known publicly to castigate late-comers—who tried to slip quietly into his poetry readings.
- When the number in the audience did not meet his expectations, he informed organizers that he was not a rural high school English teacher who could be ignored.
- Rather, the implication went, he was someone to be reckoned with, a man of distinction and even power who deserved better than what he was receiving.

5 Robert Burton

- A recent and blatant example of an outrageous outburst came from Robert Burton.
- This multi-millionaire, after donating millions of dollars to the University of Connecticut's football program—loudly demanded his money returned and his name removed from the stadium when he didn't agree with the school's recent choice of a new coach.
- A local newspaper mocked his public tirade by depicting him as a large screaming infant in diapers with the caption, “I want my money back!”

6 Loosing it at McDonald's

7 Outburst

- These stunning displays of anger and apparent lack of concern for the recipients of one's wrath are the markers of people oblivious to the meaning of empathy.

- They are people who are so self-absorbed that they have a complete disregard for the feelings of others.
- Why do some people lose control in an emotional situation and feel entitled to satisfaction, while others can calmly sail smoothly to the shores of understanding?

8 Why People Lose It?

- They are already very frustrated and lack sufficient coping skills to deal with their problems.
- Their natural inhibitions are compromised by drugs, alcohol, physiological injurers, or illnesses.
- Learned behavior . . .
 - Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared. (Prov 22:24-25 NIV)
- They are so self-centered and self-absorbed where they can't understand the consequence of their behavior on others.
- Are in rebellion with God and lack His peace.

9 Joseph – the Anti Jerk

- Joseph (son of Jacob) stands in quiet a contrast with today's reality TV stars.
- When Joseph sees his brothers who betrayed him stand before him he actually loses his composure and becomes very emotional.
- Even though Joseph has the power to bring fireworks, revenge, tables being overturned, and punishment, he does something quite astonishing.
- He presents his unlovable, unsympathetic, ne'er-do-well brothers, forgiveness, mercy and reconciliation.

10 Joseph – the Anti Jerk

- There is no drama.
- No one is kicked off the island.
- No rose was ground into the floor or ring thrown across the room.
- There is no conflict, outrage, tears, screaming, or pain.
- Not having an over-inflated ego, Joseph offers an olive branch of remarkable proportions.

11 What Rules Us?

- Some people rule by fear and coercion.
- Others allow the power of the Holy Spirit to speak and work through them.
- Joseph . . .
 - Didn't blame anyone

- He didn't recount the multitude of hurts or remind his brothers of the devastating pain and suffering they caused.
- He didn't gloat over his accomplishments or how God had greatly blessed him.
- Instead, he opened the door of reconciliation and restoration wide—putting down a red carpet of compassion.

12 What Rules Us?

- When his brothers were cowering in front of Joseph and awaiting his judgment, they were experiencing the same despair and fear that Joseph did when they abandoned him in a pit.
- Joseph could have used his anger to engage in “tit for tat” politics. He could have allowed his feelings to get the best of him and repay “evil” with “evil.”
- Joseph refused to allow anger to dictate his actions.

13 What to do with Anger?

- What are we to do then with anger, which can be a justified response to a situation?
- Clearly, Joseph was able to work through his fury and sense of betrayal.
- We have no record of Joseph getting counseling.
- What we do know was that it was so difficult for him emotionally that he had to leave the room.
 - Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. (Gen 45:1 NIV)

14 Self-control

- In the Bible, self-control is very important. It is both an imperative and a fruit, which grows.
 - Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control. (Prov 25:28 NIV)
 - . . . so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Cor 7:5 NIV)
 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal 5:22–23 NIV)
 - [Last days] People will be . . . without self-control, . . . lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. (2 Tim 3:2–5 NIV)

15 Jesus Sanctifies Himself

- For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. (John 17:19 NIV)
- How did Jesus sanctify Himself?

- “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42 NIV)
- Was this something easy for Jesus?
- Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. (1 Pet 4:1 NIV)

16 Acts of faith

- Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17 NIV)
- What sanctifies (purifies) and causes us to grow is when we by faith live out the word of God. Even though it is initially not easy, it does produce fruit like self-control.
- But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies (sanctifies) us from all sin. (1 John 1:7 NIV)
- (Faith + God’s Word) = Maturity & God’s Faithfulness

17 Battle Royal at Ascot

18 Battle Royal at Ascot

19 Battle Royal at Ascot

20 Battle Royal at Ascot

21 Extortion

- Money, education, or high birth can’t help someone who lacks self-control.
- The devil can beat us like a drum if we refuse to keep our emotions under control.
- We may get people to think we are spiritual—due to the operation of spiritual gifts, acts of piety, or the use of mystical language.
- But the devil will flee and run from us, when we submit to God and resist temptation by controlling our anger. (See James 4:7)
- However, if we wait for the situation to change that causing us to be angry or resentful, we may wait a long time and also stunt our spiritual growth.

22 Conclusion

- Joseph refused to give the devil a foothold in his life.
 - Jealous and cruel brothers
 - A desperate housewife (Potiphar wife)
 - Forgetful cupbearer
- Therefore, God was able to use him to save that region of the world from both famine and death.
- God wants to use us too. He has a place for us in the body of Christ.
- And when each part of the body is able to carry out their responsibilities faithfully in the church, what happens? God is glorified.