



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#101)
Faithfulness (#2).

1

Last time, we saw:

- GOD (as Creator)
- JESUS (God in human form)
- The BIBLE (God's words to us)

... can be TRUSTED!
... are faithful and true!

Today's focus:

God requires us to become like him:
FAITHFUL and TRUSTWORTHY!

2

FAITHFULNESS

is one of the characteristics of a SAVED person.

We have an *obligation* to become faithful and trustworthy.

It **MUST** happen!

We will **WANT** it to happen!

People who follow Jesus (= "saved") will want to *grow* in those characteristics that are a part of salvation.

It **WILL** happen!

Where the Spirit of God is present, the evidence ("fruit") of his presence will be there.

But the *fruit of the Spirit* is ... **faithfulness** ...

Galatians 5:22 (CSB)

3

GOD TEACHES US ABOUT FAITHFULNESS THROUGH EXAMPLES AND INSTRUCTIONS.

LAST WEEK

- The FAITHFULNESS of God / Jesus / the Bible.

EXAMPLE OF LEARNING FROM **GOD'S** FAITHFULNESS:

As God is **faithful**, our message to you is not "Yes and no."

2 Corinthian 1:18 (CSB)

TODAY

- The teachings of Jesus; some commands.
- The examples of faithful people.
- Being faithful with what God has **entrusted** to us.

4

JESUS' TEACHINGS ABOUT BEING FAITHFUL / TRUSTWORTHY.

(He used parables and illustrations.)

THE FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANT.

(Read Matthew 24:45-51 & Luke 12:42-46.)

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FAITHFUL SERVANT?

I assure you, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns.

Matthew 24:47 (NLT)

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE SERVANT IS UNFAITHFUL?

He will cut him to pieces* and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:51 (CSB)

*(This could be a figurative expression, indicating a very severe punishment.)

5

THE MAN ON A JOURNEY, WHO ENTRUSTED HIS SERVANTS WITH HIS PROPERTY (MONEY), AND TOLD THEM TO INVEST IT.

(Read Matthew 25:14-30; a similar parable in Luke 19:12-27.)

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SERVANTS WHO FAITHFULLY INVEST THE PROPERTY?

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy.'"

Matthew 25:21 (CSB); also v. 23.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE UNFAITHFUL SERVANT, WHO DOESN'T DO AS INSTRUCTED?

"His master replied to him, 'You evil, lazy servant! ...' 'So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. ... And throw this good-for-nothing servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Matthew 25:26a, 28, 30 (CSB)

6

BASIC PRINCIPLE TAUGHT IN THIS PARABLE

For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.
Matthew 25:29 (CSB)

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITHFULNESS EVEN IN SMALL MATTERS.
(Read Luke 16:10-12.)

"The one who is **faithful** in a very little is also **faithful** in much, and the one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you haven't been **trustworthy** in handling worldly wealth, who will **entrust** you with the true riches? And if you haven't been **trustworthy** with someone else's property, who will give you your own?"
Luke 16:10-12 (NET)

COMMANDS FOR SPECIFIC SITUATIONS.

Though it's a requirement for all, there are some situations in which faithfulness is given additional emphasis.

THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE.

BOTH THE ORIGINAL APOSTLES... So look at Apollos and me as mere servants of Christ who have been put in charge of explaining God's mysteries. Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be **faithful**.
1 Cor. 4:1-2 (NLT15)

... AND THOSE WHO WOULD COME LATER. You have heard me teach many things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Teach these great truths to **trustworthy** people who are able to pass them on to others.
2 Tim. 2:2 (NLT)

NOT JUST LEADERS... BUT ALSO MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY.

[Deacon's] **wives** must also be of good character. They must not be gossips, but they must control their tempers and be **trustworthy** in every way.
1 Tim. 3:11 (GW)

An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with **faithful children** who cannot be charged with dissipation or rebellion.
Titus 1:6 (NET)

PEOPLE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING PERSECUTION.

Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The Devil will throw some of you into prison and put you to the test. You will be **persecuted** for 'ten days.' Remain **faithful** even when facing death, and I will give you the crown of life.
Rev. 2:10 (NLT)

EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS.

SOME GENERAL STATEMENTS ABOUT PEOPLE BEING FAITHFUL.

INDIVIDUALS.

- ... Timothy, ... who is **faithful** in the Lord.
1 Cor. 4:17b (NIV)
- ... Onesimus, a **faithful** and dearly loved brother...
Colossians 4:9b (CSB)
- ... Silvanus, whom I know to be a **faithful** brother...
1 Peter 5:12b (NET)

JESUS' FOLLOWERS (AS A GROUP).

"... with [Jesus] will be his called, chosen and **faithful** followers."
Rev. 17:14b (NIV)

FAITHFUL IN SERVING GOD.

PEOPLE WHO ARE SERVING GOD

- [Jesus] considered me [=Paul] **trustworthy** and appointed me to serve him, ...
1 Timothy 1:12b (NLT15)
- ... Moses was **faithful** when he served in God's house.
Hebrews 3:2b (GW)

PEOPLE HELPING OTHERS TO SERVE GOD.

- Tychicus, a much loved brother and **faithful** helper in the Lord's work ...
Ephes. 6:21a (NLT)
- Tychicus, ... a faithful **helper** who serves the Lord with me.
Col. 4:7 (NLT)
- Epaphras... is Christ's **faithful** servant, and he is helping us ...
Col. 1:7 (NLT)

FAITHFUL IN OTHER WAYS (3 EXAMPLES).

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH.

- ... Antipas, my **faithful** witness who was put to death among you, ...
Revelation 2:13b (CSB)

FAITHFUL IN HOSPITALITY.

- Dear friend, you are **faithful** in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you.
3 John 1:5 (NIV)

GIVING TRUSTWORTHY ADVICE.

- ... I [= Paul] give my opinion as one shown mercy by the Lord to be **trustworthy**.
1 Corinthians 7:25 (NET)

**WE NEED TO BE FAITHFUL
WITH WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED* TO US.**

THE BASIC PRINCIPLE APPLIES TO ANYTHING GOD HAS GIVEN US.

I AM TRUSTING YOU
WITH THESE THINGS...

PROVE THAT YOU
CAN BE TRUSTED!

★ See Jesus' teachings about being faithful. ★

If then you haven't been **trustworthy** in handling worldly wealth, who will **entrust** you with the true riches?

Luke 16:11 (NET); see the whole paragraph.

* In this specific group of verses, the word "entrust" is a passive verb form of the word translated as "believe." (Other N.T. words can also be translated this way.)

13

Scripture places much emphasis on this specific issue:

GOD HAS ENTRUSTED US WITH THE GOOD NEWS.
Be careful with what you do with it!

BEING ENTRUSTED WITH SCRIPTURE IS NOT A NEW CONCEPT!

THE OLD TESTAMENT
JEWS WERE ENTRUSTED
WITH GOD'S WORDS.*

First, they were **entrusted** with the very words of God.
Romans 3:2 (CSB)

* (Many of them proved that they couldn't be trusted with it.)

THIS GOOD NEWS IS FOR ALL PEOPLE – BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES.

... I had been **entrusted** with telling the Good News to people who are not circumcised [= Gentiles] as Peter had been **entrusted** to tell it to those who are circumcised [= Jews].

Galatians 2:7b (NLT)

14

BEING ENTRUSTED WITH GOOD NEWS IS A SERIOUS MATTER!

IT'S GOD'S WORD, AND NEEDS TO BE PROCLAIMED.

[God] has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was **entrusted** by the command of God our Savior ...

Titus 1:3 (CSB)

Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach.... I am simply discharging the **trust** committed to me.

1 Cor. 9:16a, 17b (NIV)

OUR OBLIGATION IS TO PLEASE GOD – THE ONE WHO ENTRUSTED IT TO US!

... we speak as men approved by God to be **entrusted** with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.

1 Thes. 2:4b (NIV)

15



✓ Do people regard you as being **FAITHFUL** and **TRUSTWORTHY**?

✓ Does God regard you as being **FAITHFUL** and **TRUSTWORTHY**?

16

DO YOU TAKE SERIOUS WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS ABOUT BEING "FAITHFUL" AND "TRUSTWORTHY"?

I KNOW MANY PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY ARE CHRISTIANS, BUT WHO ARE NOT THE LEAST BIT FAITHFUL!

SOME CHURCHES ARE FULL OF PEOPLE WHO CAN'T BE TRUSTED!

OUR GOAL IS TO FOCUS ON WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS, AND TO USE THE WORD THE WAY THE BIBLE USES IT.

YOU MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO GO BY WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS... OR BY WHAT THOSE UNFAITHFUL, UNTRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE SAY.

17

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18