

HOW TO BE A FAITHFUL FRIEND

BLESS: Week 4

October 25, 2026

Pastor Brian

Luke 16:1–9 (TPT/NLT)

¹ Jesus taught his disciples using this story: “There was once a very rich man who hired a manager to run his business and oversee all his wealth. But soon a rumor spread that the manager was wasting his master’s money. ² So the master called him in and said, ‘Is it true that you are mismanaging my estate? You need to provide me with a complete audit of everything you oversee for me. I’ve decided to dismiss you.’

³ “The manager thought, ‘Now what am I going to do? I’m finished here. I can’t hide what I’ve done, and I’m too proud to beg to get my job back. ⁴ I have an idea that will secure my future. It will win me favor and secure friends who can take care of me and help me when I get fired!’

⁵ “So the dishonest manager hatched his scheme. He went to everyone who owed his master money, one by one, and he asked them, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ^{6–7} One debtor owed twenty thousand dollars, so he said to him, ‘Let me see your bill. Pay me now and we’ll settle for twenty percent less.’ The clever manager scratched out the original amount owed and reduced it by twenty percent. And to another who owed two hundred thousand dollars, he said, ‘Pay me now and we’ll reduce your bill by fifty percent.’ And the clever manager scratched out the original amount owed and reduced it by half.

⁸ “Even though his master was defrauded, when he found out about the shrewd way this manager had feathered his own nest, he congratulated the clever scoundrel for what he’d done to lay up for his future needs.”

Jesus continued, “Remember this: The sons of darkness are more shrewd than the sons of light in their interactions with others. ⁹ It is important that you **use the wealth of this world** to demonstrate your friendship with God by **winning friends and blessing others**. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.”

THE CHARACTER QUALITIES OF A FAITHFUL FRIEND

FRIENDLY.

“A man who has friends must himself **be friendly**.” (Proverbs 18:24a, NKJV)

“For the Holy Spirit, God’s gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and **enjoy being with them**.” (2 Timothy 1:7, The Living Bible)

“For John [the Baptist] didn’t spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, ‘He’s possessed by a demon.’ The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say,

'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by its results.' (Matthew 11:18–19, NLT)

RADICAL compassion.

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.""* (Matthew 9:36–38, NLT)*

INTEGRITY.

"Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity; you don't regard anybody as special. You don't bother about the outward show people put up; you teach God's way truly..." (Mark 12:14, The New Testament for Everyone: A Fresh Translation)

"We can be proud of our clear conscience. We have always lived honestly and sincerely, especially when we were with you..." (2 Corinthians 1:12, CEV)

EXPECT CRITICISM.

"After that, Pharisees and religion scholars came to Jesus all the way from Jerusalem, criticizing," (Matthew 15:1, MSG)

"Anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right will have trouble from others." (2 Timothy 3:12, CEV)

Nurture LISTENING over LECTURING.

"Have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honour him as Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect..." (1 Peter 3:15–16, GNB)

"...whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him." (1 Corinthians 9:22, The Living Bible)

DECLARE the gospel.

"But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." (Matthew 9:11–13, NLT)

NEXT STEPS

Take **HOME** class on Wed 11/18 or Sun 11/22

Choose your **BLESS Project**

(PEACE Sunday is next week!)

Get Baptized on 11/15