

LESSONS THAT SHAPE OUR LIFE 5 - FAITHFULNESS

I. WHO CAN FIND A FAITHFUL MAN?

*Prov. 20:6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness,
But **who can find a faithful man?***

*(Prov. 20:6 MESSAGE Lots of people claim to be loyal and loving,
but **where on earth can you find one?**)*

- A. FAITHFULNESS is the quality of unflinching loyalty.** It is to be trustworthy, reliable and dependable. It means honoring commitments, maintaining integrity, keeping promises and fulfilling duties - *regardless of changing circumstances and whether or not others are watching.*

FAITH IS AT THE ROOT OF FAITHFULNESS. TO BE FULL OF FAITH IS ABOUT THE CONFIDENCE THAT OTHERS PLACE IN YOU BECAUSE, LIKE GOD, YOU CAN BE TRUSTED!

- B. PROMISES KEPT - GOD USES PROMISES TO REVEAL HIS CHARACTER TO US. FAITHFULNESS IS LESSONS LEARNED**

*Psa. 36:5 Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens;
Your **faithfulness reaches to the clouds.***

- **WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT HIMSELF IS HIS GLORY**

*EX.34:6 The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and **filled with unflinching love and faithfulness.***

II. FAITHFULNESS

- A. HOW TO BE MORE FAITHFUL - STEWARDSHIP**

*Luke 19:17 And he said to him, "Well done, good servant; **because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.**"*

- **FAITHFULNESS ALWAYS RESULTS IN GREATER AUTHORITY**
- **FAITHFULNESS IS ABOUT THE LITTLE THINGS WAY BEFORE IT IS ABOUT THE BIG THINGS**

Luke 16:10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and

he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. **11** Therefore if you have not been **faithful** in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? **12** **And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?**

- **STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT EVERYTHING. FAITHFULNESS IS THE SUM OF OUR STEWARDSHIP - IT INCLUDES MONEY, TIME, TALENT, ENERGY, SKILL, COMPASSION AND TRUST**

1Cor. 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

- **SHEBNA AND ELIAKIM - Eliakim was the literal ancestor of Jesus from Joseph's side (Mt. 1:13). He was the picture of messianic authority that was fulfilled in Christ.**

Is. 22:15 Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: **"Go, proceed to this steward, To Shebna, who is over the house, and say:**

16 "What have you here, and whom have you here, That you have hewn a sepulcher here, As he who hews himself a sepulcher on high, Who carves a tomb for himself in a rock? (PRIDE, SPENT KINGDOM FUNDS ON HIMSELF!)

17 **Indeed, the LORD will throw you away violently....**

Isaiah 22:20 "Then it shall be in that day, That **I will call My servant Eliakim** ("GOD RAISES UP") **the son of**

Hilkiah; **21** I will clothe him with your robe (Shebna's robe, etc.) And strengthen him with your belt; **I will commit your responsibility into his hand.** He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem And to the house of Judah.

22 **The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder;** (BADGE OF A STEWARD - COULD GO ANYWHERE IN MASTER'S HOUSE) **So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.**

23 **I will fasten him as a peg (A NAIL) in a secure place,** And he will become a glorious throne to his father's house.

Rev. 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, **"These things says He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens"**

Heb. 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the

Apostle and High Priest of our confession, **Christ Jesus,² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.**

HEBREWS 3:5 *And Moses indeed was faithful in all His **house** as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own **house, whose house we are** if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.*

B. FAITHFULNESS IS LEARNED

- **INTIMACY AND ABIDING** - REST, REFRESHING, RENEWAL, Ps. 23
- **WHEN YOU TRUST GOD YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT FAITHFULNESS IS BECAUSE YOU SEE IT DIRECTED TO YOU.**

Psa. 37:3 *Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His **faithfulness.***

- **HUMILITY IN RELATIONSHIPS - SERVE OTHERS honestly**

Prov. 27:6 *Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.*

- **HONOR FATHERS - We carry what others have invested in us**

1Cor. 4:17 *For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is **my beloved and faithful son in the Lord**, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.*

C. OUR DEEPEST PAIN CAN BECOME LESSONS IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IF WE DIRECT OUR MIND TOWARD IT. REMEMBER!

Lam. 3:19 NLT *The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words.²⁰ **I will never forget this awful time**, as I grieve over my loss.*

21 ***Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this:***

Lam. 22 *The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease.*

23 ***Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.***

24 *I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"*

D. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - TRUE FAITHFULNESS IS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. WE BEGIN IT AND GOD FINISHES IT

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

III. THE RESULT OF FAITHFUL LIVING

Faithful treatment makes us feel safe, secure and valued.

You can't be faithful without the possibility of failing at it. IT'S HARD FOR EVERYONE. SOMETIMES WE FAIL.

Faithfulness is developed throughout our life. But it is only at the end that it is truly measured and we hear the "well done". YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO IMPROVE!

To be faithful is to be like God. A Promise Keeper. To speak things that are not and then spend yourself to make them a reality. Many times, miracles are required, so you pray. In that process you learn humility, dependence and trust.

I am learning how to be faithful from those who have shown faithfulness to me. Faithfulness is contagious.

ALL OF YOU ARE TEACHING ME WHAT IT IS TO BE FAITHFUL!

Prov. 28:20 **A faithful man will abound with blessings,**
But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

2Tim. 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men** who will be able to teach others also.

Rev. 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

THE CROWN OF LIFE IS THE REWARD OF THE FAITHFUL!