

Faithful Servant

Text: Matthew 24:45-51 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season. 46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; 49 And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou **good and faithful servant**: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Introduction: I WANT TO PREACH THIS SERMON ABOUT FAITHFULNESS!

Although already Son and Daughters of God while on earth, Christians are also servants of God.

The Bible teaches from our text the fact that all Christians on earth are servants of God!

I. Servant of God vs. Son (or Daughter) of God Teaching:

(a) *Doesn't the Bible teach that Christians are sons of God (or daughters of God)?* **YES**

I John 3:1-2 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, *now are we the sons of God*, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

(b) *The Bible also teaches that the full measure of the above scripture (sons of God) pertains to our future. Although we are sons of God, we do not attain the full honor while on earth. On earth, heirs of God are under service to God until we fulfill our earthly duties.*

Galatians 4:1-2 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, **differeth nothing from a servant**, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest.

(c) *Servants of God while on earth*

Luke 17:5-10 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. **But** which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

How can a Christian be BOTH a son and a servant?

Answer: God recognizes Christians as BOTH - sons of God for future honor & a servant in training while on earth!

Have you (or I) done well as God's Servants? (1) It is a personal question – God and you – God and me.

(2) It is a deep and probing question – it is deeper than many realize – God is the only one qualified to answer that question? (3) what does the Lord seek from us to hear “well done” at the end of our life?

Faithfulness – Defn.:(source- Love Worth Finding) - a steadfast loyalty that isn't easily swayed. Our faithfulness to God means trusting in Him and loving Him through all circumstances. It means following the commandments even when we'd rather choose a different path.

Personal Definition.: *faithfulness is dependability in our Christian Walk – its more than doing our duty, it is denying ourselves and seeking to serve Christ in whatever tasks that are assigned without murmuring, with a right attitude, with commitment, and without quitting - it is one of the most important sign of Christian maturity. A by-product of our commitment to God*

II. Seven Thoughts on Faithfulness

(1) *God Desires to see Faithfulness in His People: Various Scriptures Signifying this Statement is True*

- **OUR TEXT – Well Done, thy GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!**
- **Proverbs 20:6** Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?
- **I Corinthians 4:2** Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.
- **Luke 16:10** He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.
- **Psalms 31:23** O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.
- ***Additional scriptures could be listed but the scriptures listed above should be sufficient!***

(2) *We have total control over our faithfulness – no excuses – no one else to blame – no one to take the credit away from us when we obey.*

(3) *Faithfulness is hard / Quitting is easy -- we will face many seasons that will test our faithfulness and we will encounter many opportunities to quit – many have quit already!*

(4) *Faithfulness takes BOTH our determination AND strength from God to finish our earthly mission!*

(5) *God will not reward a Quitter – He gives us him many opportunities to repent. If we repent, He will help us start over again, even if we fail many times! But if we do not repent or decide to quit, we forfeit it all!*

Matthew 24:50-51 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

(6) *Lack of Faithfulness is a Sign of Little or Lukewarm Love*

Jesus said, “BECAUSE YOU ARE LUKEWARM, I WILL SPUE YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH”!

Mark 12:28-30 28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? 29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

(7) *Lack of Faithfulness is a sign of a sick or dying Soul! The following symptoms are present:*

- ❖ *Lack of a healthy prayer life*
- ❖ *Lack of mature growth in Christ*
- ❖ *Lack of Commitment - Following at a distance – Peter followed at a distance and denied Christ*
- ❖ *Misplaced priorities – other things occupy a more important role in the heart*
- ❖ *Lack of desire for heaven / lack of proper fear of hell*

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

III. What are the “Few Things” of Faithfulness God requires in us?

The items listed below are common areas of faithfulness required in every saint – regardless of our calling
-- CHRIST EXPECTS FAITHFULNESS in these areas of our live!

1. *Marriage – have we been a faithful spouse? If not, we need to repent and get this sin removed and under the Blood of Christ – we don't want this hanging over our heads in judgement*
2. *Home – have we been a faithful provider or home keeper?*
3. *Business Affairs – are we honest? – are we hard working?*
4. *Tithing and giving - tithes and offerings*
5. *Church attendance – Church Attendance is a barometer that measures our True Love for God!*
6. *Private Bible study and prayer life*
7. *Our work within the church – Spiritual Gifts, Talents, Duties and Assignments, Prayer Support, etc.*
8. *Our work without the church – evangelizing, maintaining a Christ-like attitude, helping others*

IV. Closing -- GOD IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE OF FAITHFULNESS

Need I Remind you of God's Faithfulness?

Not one saint has God ever failed in all recorded history!

If you know Him at all, you should have your own personal record of God's Faithfulness!

Seven Scriptures on the Faithfulness of God

- **Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for **he is faithful that promised;**)
- **Lamentations 3:21-23** This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: **great is thy faithfulness.**
- **Deuteronomy 7:9-10** Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, **the faithful God,** which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.
- **I Corinthians 1:9** **God is faithful,** by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **I Thessalonians 5:24** **Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.**
- **Psalms 119:90** **Thy faithfulness is unto all generations;** thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.
- **Revelation 19:11** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called **Faithful and True,** and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.