

Faithfulness

Faithful simply means **to be true to**—True to the Word, serving others and to the relationship with the Lord. Faithful means more than just showing up to church continuously.

We need to be watching and looking for faithfulness in people. This key to selecting leaders, promotion and so forth.

Many times, we are tempted to promote ability instead of faithfulness.

- i) Faithfulness can be found – 1 Corinthians 4:2.
- ii) Faithfulness can be counted – 1 Tim 1:12.
- iii) Faithfulness in little – Luke 19:17; Luke 16:10.
- iv) Faithfulness calls for delegation – 2 Tim 2:2.

1. Faithful in The Little

A. *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.*

—Luke 16:10

- a) The context of this passage is talking about money. That we need to be faithful in the least, which is money before we are trusted with much.
- b) This is true, but the principle not only applies to money but also to other areas of life.

c) Faithfulness is not taught but caught as we grow in a relationship with the Lord.

d) Champions are not made in the ring. That is where they are recognized. They are made in the gym.

B. *And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.*

— Luke 19:17

C. *And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, **he keepeth the sheep**. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. — 1 Samuel 16:11 (underline mine)*

a) David started out as a **sheep keeper**. **He did not start at the top**.

i) Start from the bottom and rise through the ranks. They want to be hired today and get promoted tomorrow.

ii) They want to be paid as one who has been with the company for years. Most people are not realistic at all.

b) David's **greatest call on his life found him while being faithful in the little**.

c) We **must first be faithful in the very little and God will promote us to the bigger** (Psalms 75:6). It is a process.

i) First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear (Mark 4:28).

- **No one climbs a ladder from the top!**

d) As David was being faithful in the least,

i) God was creating in him the heart of a leader. **He was preparing him for the throne**, although David may not have known that.

- ii) **God does not prepare us at the top for the top but prepares us for the top at the bottom.**
- iii) **Character, commitment, and hard work of a person are formed at the bottom.**
- iv) If we cannot be faithful in the very little, we will not be faithful in much. We must do things with excellence and faithfulness; however small they are.
- e) While David was in the bush keeping sheep, **he grew in his relationship with God**, and also came to the knowledge of God's covenant with the nation of Israel.
- f) He was faithful in the bush (secret) but was promoted before every eye (public).
 - i) God surely sees in secret. Be faithful in the little.
 - ii) One may say, "I have been faithful in this and that, but I have waited and waited, and I have seen nothing come through for me."
 - iii) If will not **promote you where you are**, God will have someone take you away and promote you. **God will promote you somewhere else.**
 - iv) Do not kick down doors. Do not promote yourself.
- h) David, Joseph (Genesis 39:3-5), Gideon (Judges 6:11-12); Samuel (1 Samuel 2:18), Paul (Acts 8).
 - i) Spouses came to them as they were being faithful in their "fields"—call, job, ministry, destiny or purpose.
 - Genesis 2:8, 15, 22—Adam. Adam was in the field being faithful. He was given a job before a wife. Why? Because the wife was to be a helpmeet in that field or call.
 - Genesis 24:63—Jacob. God gave Jacob a field, and he was in the field meditating in the evening.
 - Genesis 29:1-10—Rachel.

- Ruth 2:3—Boaz.
- Ester 2:16—King Ahasuerus.

As we are faithful in that which God has called us to do, many other doors will begin to open in our lives.

2. What to promote:

One of the continuous temptations we will all face is to see a great need and be tempted to promote ability, talent, looks, and so forth. Although these things are great, they should not be the reason we promote those that we do promote.

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

—2 Timothy 2:1-2

- a) Promote faithfulness not ability, looks, giftings or talent. 2 Timothy 2:1-2. Faithfulness (Faithful men) comes before ability (able to teach).
 - i) Faithfulness comes before ability (2 Timothy 2:1-2).
 - ii) God adds “ability” to “faithfulness” not to faithfulness to ability.

3. Faithfulness needs to be proven.

- a) Prove people

We are to prove ourselves (Galatians 6:4; 2 Corinthians 8:8; 13:5 and also prove others.

- i) 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.”*
- ii) Daniel 1:12 *“Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.”*

iii) 1 Thessalonians 5:21 *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”*

iv) 1 Timothy 3:10 *“And let these also **first be proved**; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.”*

b) How do you prove people?

i) Start someone in a service role.

- Start someone in a service role. Faithfulness is the basis on which to select leaders (1 Corinthians 4:2).
- This is a time to prove their faithfulness and grow in character. While serving in a service role, the heart of a servant is nurtured and developed.

ii) Give them assignments and homework. Are they volunteering already and serving in some capacity?

iii) Test (prove) people first in the very small things (least) before you choose or put them into a position of leadership ministry.

- Servanthood test: Genesis 24:10-21.
- Loyalty and commitment test—Ruth 1:15-18.

iv) Watch for growth

v) Character and attitude.

vi) Willingness to serve without a quest or gain.

4. Hire or commit on an interim basis:

As you check out a person if he is fit for a certain position, do so on an interim basis (60 days, 90 days).

- b) Potential leaders have to be proved/ Tested. This can be done by giving assignments and tasks in the little things and observing how they do.
- c) Try people out before a long-term commitment.

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