

=THE CHRISTIAN LIFE=

Lesson 10

Faithfulness

INTRODUCTION: By “faithfulness” we mean “being dependable” or, better still, “the doing of a task well at the appropriate and proper time.” There is nothing more vital than faithfulness or dependability on the part of a Christian. Nehemiah speaks of a “faithful man” in Nehemiah 7:2. Abraham is called “faithful” in Galatians 3:9. Timothy is called “faithful” in I Corinthians 4:17. Let us notice the important things about faithfulness.

I. THE CHRISTIAN AND FAITHFULNESS.

1. The new Christian is to be faithful, Acts 16:15. Lydia had just been saved and baptized; immediately she wanted to be counted as being faithful. Faithfulness is one of the most vital lessons to teach the new Christian.
2. A good steward must be faithful, I Corinthians 4:2. A steward is one who cares for the property of another. He is given the responsibility of overseeing someone else’s property. This, of course, has primarily to do with the Christian and his giving. In order for a person to be a good steward, he must be faithful; that is, he must give regularly and give the tithes and offerings; not just when he is able, but all the time; not just some weeks, but every week; not lagging behind and then catching up, but being regular, dependable and faithful in his giving. (Teacher, spend some time reviewing what the tithe is and the importance of every Christian giving the tithe.)
3. A Christian should be faithful all of his life, Revelation 2:10. This means that children, teenagers, adults, and the aged should be faithful. There’s far too much separation and division in the Christian life. One thing is expected of a child, another thing is expected of the teenager, and another thing is expected of the adult. This should not be so! Christians of all ages should read the Bible, pray, win souls, be faithful, behave properly, give to God’s work, and be dependable!
4. A Christian should be faithful to the point of dying for his faithfulness, Revelation 2:13. In other words, a Christian should be faithful regardless! There is no excuse for unfaithfulness.
5. Faithfulness is a qualification for teaching, II Timothy 2:2. The Apostle Paul was reminding Timothy to have a Sunday school or at least to teach others the Word of God that they may also teach it. Of course, it was not called Sunday school, but it was a training of workers to teach others. One of the prime qualifications for the teachers was faithfulness. A Sunday school teacher should be faithful to Sunday school, visitation, tithing, and the Wednesday evening teacher’s meeting! If anyone should be faithful, it should be the Sunday school teacher.
6. The pastor should be faithful, Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 1:7; 4:7. Likewise, the teacher should be faithful! Like the Sunday school teacher, the pastor is a leader. He is an example. This would include, of course, the entire paid staff. Faithfulness is vital, especially for those who lead, for they are examples.

Everyone is a leader in some respect. The parent leads in the home. The teacher leads the class. Class officers lead. There are some people who look up to each of us. Each has his own scope of influence. Every Christian should be a good example of faithfulness so as to promote this worthy trait in the lives of those who look up to him. This is especially true for children. Those who haven’t started school look up to the primaries as their heroes. Those in elementary school look up to the junior high students as their heroes. The junior high student looks up to the high school student as his hero. The high school student looks up to the college student. One need only to remember his childhood days to realize that each of us has influence over someone else.

7. A Christian should be faithful in little things, Luke 16:10. Ah, here is such an important thing! No matter how small the task, it is deserving of our faithfulness. To be quite true, there are no little tasks; every task is important, and we should be faithful in the little things! If a task is worth doing, it is worth doing well. If it is not worth doing well, it is not worth doing!
8. A Christian should be faithful to be friendly to church members and to visitors, III John 5. A Christian should be given to hospitality. He should be faithful to welcome strangers and be friendly to the brethren. (Teacher, stress here the importance of being friendly to visitors. We should do our best to go overboard in welcoming the stranger within our gates.)

II. JESUS AND FAITHFULNESS.

1. He was faithful to the House of God, Luke 4:16. Notice the words, “as his custom was.” He was faithful in attending the synagogue. This means that He learned the Scripture and spent time with those that studied the Word of God. One of the great secrets of the Christian life is being faithful to God’s house. The Christian should put first the services at the church. Regardless of what comes up, the Christians should be at the House of God Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. How vital this is for Christian growth! The pastor prepares for the people like Mother prepares meals. It is so important that each member gets a full-course dinner in order to be healthy.

Of course, the Christian should be faithful to attend his church, but he also should be faithful to DEFEND his church. He should be faithful regarding his own comments about the church and what goes on within the church.

2. He was faithful to His responsibilities, John 19:26, 27. He was dying on the cross, suffering as no man had ever suffered, and yet, He realized that it was His job to take care of His mother. He made provisions for her. He had a responsibility and He cared for it. (Teacher, the pupils should be taught to fulfill their own responsibilities. Have each pupil list all of his responsibilities, those at school, home, church, etc. Explain to him that when he becomes older and is employed he will have responsibilities to which he should be faithful. Spend a few moments here stressing punctuality.) Here is a vital thing and an often-found flaw in character.
3. He is faithful to forgive, I John 1:9. This means if we confess our sins, God always will forgive our sins. Jesus teaches us in Matthew 18:21, 22 that we should forgive seventy times seven. This means that we should always be faithful in forgiveness.
4. He is faithful daily, Lamentations 3:22, 23. He is faithful to give us His mercies every day. His faithfulness is not just periodic, it is daily! Of some it is said, “You can set your watch by him.” What a compliment!
5. He is our faithful high priest, Hebrews 2:17. He presents us to the courts of Heaven. He sits today at the right hand of the Father. He is always faithful. If He is faithful to represent us in Heaven where He is, we should surely be faithful in representing Him where we are, on earth. He is to do there what we cannot do for ourselves; we are to do here what He cannot do for Himself. We are to be faithful in representing Him. He pleads for us to God. We are to plead for Him to the unsaved.
6. His Word is faithful, Psalm 119:86, 138; Revelation 21:5; 22:6. You can always depend on God’s Word. This should also be true about our word. Of some it can be said, “His word is as good as his signature.” That’s the way it ought always to be. We should never go back on our word. We ought to keep our promises and appointments so we may develop the kind of name folks will associate with dependability as to what we say.

CONCLUSION: If we can instill in class members this personality trait, we will have done them a favor that will help them in every area of life. May God help us to approach our task for this Sunday soberly, carefully and diligently!