

FAITHFULNESS

Discussion Notes - May 17, 2026

1. Think of someone in your life - a parent, coach, coworker, or friend - who you would describe as truly faithful. What made them stand out?

Faithfulness is not a future aspiration; it is a present responsibility. In this week's message, we explored what it truly means to be found faithful as stewards of everything God has entrusted to us. We were challenged to see that more money or better circumstances will not make us more faithful; faithfulness is built right now, in the small things, in the hard things, and in the daily choice to do our best for God and for others. True faithfulness shows up as excellence in our work, steadfastness when the road gets rough, and the integrity to do what we said we would do all the way to the finish line.

Read Luke 16:10 (ESV)

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much."

Jesus speaks this in the context of a parable about money and stewardship, but the principle reaches far beyond finances. He is making clear that character does not change with circumstance, but it is revealed by it. The person who handles small things with integrity is not waiting for a bigger stage to show up differently; they are already showing you exactly who they are. This verse is a mirror, not a promise about the future.

2. Looking back at the sermon, what stood out to you most about the connection between faithfulness in small things and faithfulness in bigger ones?

Read Colossians 3:23-24 (ESV)

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Paul is writing to ordinary people with ordinary jobs in Colossae. These were slaves, workers, and people who might have felt like their daily tasks had little spiritual significance. His point is direct: the audience for your work is not your boss, your customers, or your peers - it is God. This completely reframes what excellence and faithfulness at work actually mean. It is not about performance for recognition; it is about stewardship as an act of worship.

3. In your daily life - at work, at home, or in your responsibilities - where is one specific area where you could raise the standard of faithfulness starting this week?

Read Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

"Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Hebrews 11 is often called the Hall of Faith; a look at men and women throughout Scripture who remained faithful to God even when the outcome was uncertain, the road was long, and the reward was not visible. This verse frames faithfulness not as a feeling but as a settled conviction that God is trustworthy even in the middle of hard or mundane seasons. Faithfulness, at its core, is faith in action over time.

4. Do you think it is harder to stay faithful when life is difficult, or when life is comfortable and there is no real pressure? Why?

Read Revelation 2:10b (ESV)

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

These words come from a letter Jesus personally dictates to the church in Smyrna; a church under real persecution, facing real suffering. He does not promise them an easy road. He calls them to endurance. The crown of life here is not a metaphor for a comfortable existence; it is the ultimate reward for those who finish what they started with God. This is the finish line of faithfulness. It's not perfection, but persistence.

5. What is one commitment or responsibility in your life right now where God is calling you to stop waiting for better conditions and simply be faithful today?

Prayer Points

- Faithfulness in the small, everyday responsibilities God has given us
- Steadfastness and courage in seasons of hardship or discouragement
- A heart that works with excellence as an act of worship to God

DEEPER DIVE: Daniel - A Life of Faithful Excellence

Daniel is one of the most striking examples of faithfulness in Scripture. Taken captive as a young man from Jerusalem to Babylon, he spent his entire adult life serving foreign kings while never compromising his devotion to God. His story is not about dramatic miracles alone; it is about decades of consistent, quiet, courageous faithfulness in a culture that pressured him at every turn to conform. Daniel's life demonstrates that faithfulness is not a single moment of courage but a long obedience in the same direction.

Read Daniel 1:8-12, 17 (ESV)

"But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, 'I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your age? So you would endanger my head with the king.' Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 'Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.' ... As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams."

From the very beginning of his captivity, Daniel draws a line. The refusal to eat the king's food was not mere dietary preference - it was a statement of allegiance. In a world designed to remake his identity, Daniel chose to remain defined by his covenant with God. What is remarkable here is the approach: he does not protest, demand, or rebel. He makes a reasonable, respectful request and trusts God with the outcome. This is faithfulness in practice. It is a conviction without arrogance, courage without recklessness. And God honors it. The result is not just survival but favor and distinction. Daniel's faithfulness in this small, daily act of obedience became the foundation for everything that followed.

Read Daniel 6:3-5, 10 (ESV)

"Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was

faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. Then these men said, 'We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.' ... When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper room open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously."

Decades have passed since Daniel first arrived in Babylon. He has served multiple kings and risen to the highest levels of government. Now his enemies are forced to admit a stunning truth: the only thing they can accuse him of is being too faithful to God. They cannot find corruption, dishonesty, or incompetence, only devotion. This is the fruit of a life lived with integrity over the long haul. When the law banning prayer is signed, Daniel does not hide, negotiate, or take a temporary break from his faith. He simply does what he has always done. His faithfulness is not performance, it is pattern. He prays because he has always prayed. Faithfulness here is a lifestyle so deeply formed that even a death threat cannot interrupt it.

Read Daniel 12:1-3, 13 (ESV)

"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. ... But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

The final chapter of Daniel ends not with triumph or a grand reward in this life, but with a quiet, personal word from God to Daniel himself: go your way till the end. After a lifetime of faithfulness; captivity, political pressure, the lion's den, visions he could not fully understand, Daniel is simply told to keep going. And the promise attached to that instruction is profound: you shall stand in your allotted place. God is saying that Daniel's faithfulness has secured something eternal. His name is written on it. His place is prepared. The broader passage speaks of those who turn many to righteousness shining like stars forever. This is a stunning reminder that faithful lives have an eternal impact far beyond what we can see in the moment. Daniel's story does not end in Babylon. It ends in eternity.

Deeper Dive Discussion Questions

1. Daniel's enemies said the only complaint they could find against him was his devotion to God. If someone examined your life closely, what would they find? What would they say drives your decisions and habits?
2. Daniel's faithfulness was not built in a moment of crisis - it was built through years of small, daily choices. What daily habits or rhythms in your own life are forming you for faithfulness over the long term?
3. Daniel 12:3 says those who turn many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. How does the promise of eternal significance change the way you think about ordinary, faithful obedience in everyday life?