

8. Faithfulness, like Jesus

While waiting to begin please discuss:

1. Is there someone in your life that you consider “faithful”?
2. What is it about them that causes this virtue to stand out?
3. Why is unfaithfulness so grieving?

Introduction: the fruit of the Spirit... FAITHFULNESS (Gal. 5:22-23)

Faithfulness = extreme reliability

The Lord Jesus – see Luke 4:1-13

Will Jesus be a faithful son? (Or will he be like Adam?)

Wonder at the faithfulness of Jesus

Discuss:

1. Where else in the Gospel story do we see the wonderful faithfulness of Jesus?
2. How is Jesus NOT like us? Why is this such good news?

Faithful... TO His Father... FOR His people... in His...

- “Active” obedience
- “Passive” obedience

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Growing the fruit of OUR faithfulness

Timothy = “a faithful child in the Lord” 1 Corinthians 4:17

Tychicus = “a faithful minister” Colossians 4:7

Silvanus = “a faithful brother” 1 Peter 5:12

Gaius = “faithful in all his efforts for the brothers” 3 John 5

(1) There is only one perfectly faithful Son – so, constantly study Him in His faithfulness.

(2) Practice faithfulness in the little things plod... stick... just show up

Matthew 25:21, “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

Luke 16:10, “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.”

Talk together & pray about what we’ve learned today.

- (1) In what area of faithfulness do you need to grow?
(Are you faithful to God? To the people in your life? To your church?)
- (2) What small seeds of faithfulness might you look to sow in that area?

To think about: George Eliot’s eulogy to Dorothea, from *Middlemarch*
“Her finely-touched spirit had still its fine issues, though they were not widely visible. Her full nature, like that river of which Cyrus broke the strength, spent itself in channels which had no great name on the earth. But the effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.”

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