

Welcome to our study on FAITHFULNESS. Please read together **Galatians 5:22-23**.

1. How would you define faithfulness in a person? Do you think that faithfulness is a common characteristic in today's world? Why or why not?
2. READ 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)
 - a. What does Timothy say about living in the "last days"?
 - b. What do you think he means in verse 5?
 - c. What are we told to do about our relationships with such people?
 - d. Do you think he means we should live in isolation from the world? Why or why not?
3. DISCUSS THIS STATEMENT:
"Faithlessness is rising to its peak because self-centeredness, the father of irresponsibility, is being promoted to its utmost." John Rittebaugh
4. Here is a definition of faithfulness. What are your thoughts about it?
"Faithfulness is unfailingly loyalty, being trustworthy, staying true to someone or something, regardless of difficult or extenuating circumstances; someone who can be counted on."
5.
 - a. Where or in what circumstances do you find it easy to be faithful?
 - b. Where do you find it difficult to be faithful?
6. READ Psalm 117:2; James 1:17; 2 Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 6:17-18
 - a. How is God described as faithful in these verses?
 - b. What specific characteristics are given?
 - c. 'God never has a bad day.' What do you think this phrase means?
7. READ Hebrews 3:1-2
 - a. To whom was Jesus 'faithful'?
 - b. What do you think is the relationship between faithfulness and obedience?
8. READ Psalm 33:4; 2 Timothy 3:16; Numbers 23:19
 - a. If God is faithful and true then what conclusion could we draw about God's word?
9. READ Hebrews 13:5
 - a. What command and what promise are we given here?

10. READ Luke 16:10-11

- a. What is the standard by which faithfulness is measured here?
- b. How does this apply in our lives today?

11. READ Matthew 25:14-30

- a. State in your own words the basic idea of this story.
- b. Why do you think the words in verse 15 "according to his ability" are very important words to the story?
- c. What excuses does the man give who failed to do anything with what the Master had given him? vs 24-25
- d. Explain the master's response in verse 26-27. Do you see a hint of sarcasm here?
- e. What two names does the master call this servant?
- f. Explain why you think he was called wicked and why he was called lazy.
- g. What does the master say he would have been satisfied with, even though this servant wasn't as shrewd or smart as the others?
- h. Remind yourself of what we are told about the master's distribution to these servants in verse 15.
- i. What specific things happen to this wicked, lazy servant in verses 28-30?
- j. What was the price paid for unfaithfulness? How can our lives become "isolated (darkness)" or full of "sorrow" (weeping) or "anxiety (gnashing of teeth) because of unfaithfulness?
- k. What are the rewards of being faithful in this story?
- l. Why do you think it is so meaningful for us as humans to have someone tell us we have done well?

12. DISCUSS:

"Faithfulness hinges on what we value as important. We have a tendency to be faithful to what we think is important and valuable. Faithfulness is based on a relationship we have with a person or an object or an ideology."

- a. If faithfulness hinges on what we value and the relationship we have, how could we come to value our relationship with the Lord more and develop a closer relationship with him?

13. a. Where in your life has God called you to be faithful? What assignment has he given you?

- b. Could you improve your faithfulness in this area or are you already faithful?
- c. What steps could you take this week in the area of faithfulness?

14. How does this statement apply to today's lesson?

"For all of the sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest of these: it might have been."
John Greenleaf Whittier

WRAP UP:

While we can often be hard on ourselves Paul helps us understand that spiritual growth is a process.

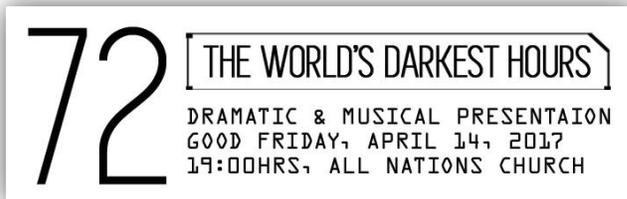
READ Philippians 3:12-14.

- a. How does Paul help us understand this process and what we must do?
- b. What word could you use to summarise this entire scripture passage?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL NATIONS CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE: We have completed our first full year in our Mission Outpost! We are planning to share a financial update and budgets with you, as well as report on the 20 x 2020 mission on **Sunday morning April 2nd immediately after the service.**

LOOK FOR YOUR **EASTER** Offering letter in the mail soon! Be sure to read about the exciting ministry opportunities God has given to each of us. Please pray and consider how you can partner in these opportunities. Easter Sunday is April 16th.



This is a powerful multimedia and music event designed to bring us face to face with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and its impact on our lives and our world. This is the night to invite friends and relatives.

Please pray as we are in production now! Begin now to use the NINE RISKY WORDS... "would you like to go to church with me". The event is free to your family friends and neighbours because of your generosity.

Demonstrating Thankfulness for Blessings

Sunday April 30 is our Big Thank You to all those who give of their time and talents to make All Nations Church a beacon of God's love to our community, nation, and the world. **Your Small Group is being asked to participate in this year's church-wide appreciation** by a method which seems appropriate to you.

Group Cards/Notes? Food? Verbally? Decorations/signs/banners?
Stories/Testimonies? Other?

Please discuss this opportunity with your group, and email Bette Choquette (bchoquette@allnationschurch) by April 9 with your decision as to method of participation. This is your chance to make a difference in the lives of those who make a difference in ours!

