



God did this because he wanted you Gentiles to understand his wonderful and glorious mystery. And the mystery is that Christ lives in you, and he is your hope of sharing in God's glory. 28 We announce the message about Christ, and we use all our wisdom to warn and teach everyone, so that all of Christ's followers will grow and become mature. 29 That's why I work so hard and use the mighty power he gives me. Colossians 1:27-29 (CEV)



"...all of Christ's followers will grow and become mature."

Colossians 1:28b (CEV)





a) Video Featuring CLIP site

- CLIP building would stand together magnificently with the Main Building as a testimony of God's love for His people and His faithfulness to them.

- We have committed ourselves in response to God's call to us to build.
- We obeyed God's call.
- As we endeavour to be faithful to God, let us not overlook the faithfulness of God toward us.



What a blessing was that stillness as he brought them safely into harbour! ³¹ Let them praise the LORD for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. ³² Let them exalt him publicly before the congregation and before the leaders of the nation...

Psalm 107:30-32 (NLT)



⁴² The godly will see these things and be glad, while the wicked are struck silent. ⁴³ Those who are wise will take all this to heart; they will see in our history the faithful love of the LORD.

Psalm 107:42-43 (NLT)

b) Growing in Christian character

- series on Growing in Christian Character
- regeneration and transformation upon conversion
- Other qualities: compassion, humility, obedience, reverence and gratitude

b) Growing in Christian character

- faithfulness
- parable of the talents recorded in Matthew 25:14-30



Matthew 25:14-30

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.



¹⁷ And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'



²¹ His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' ²² He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' ²³ His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been



faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'



²⁶ "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.

²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.



²⁹ 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

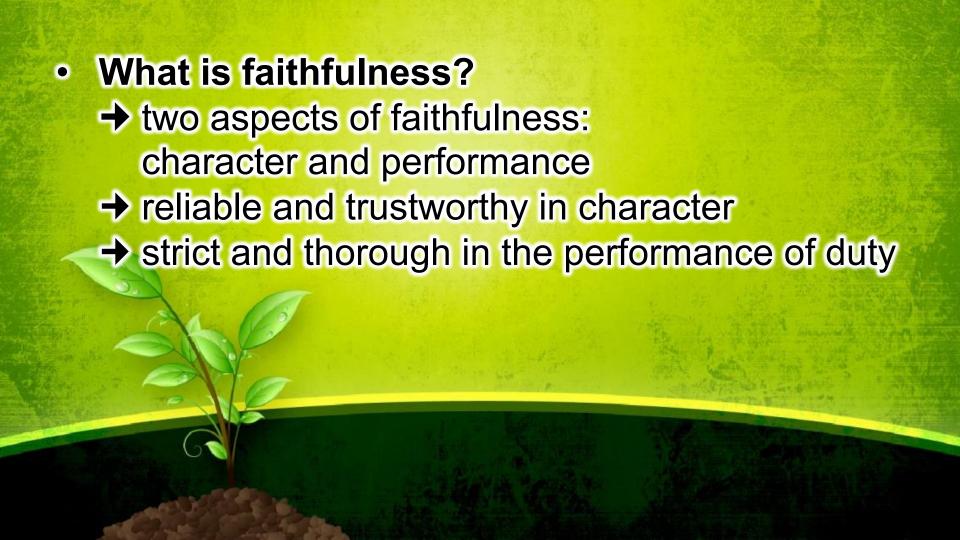
Matthew 25:14-30 (NKJV)

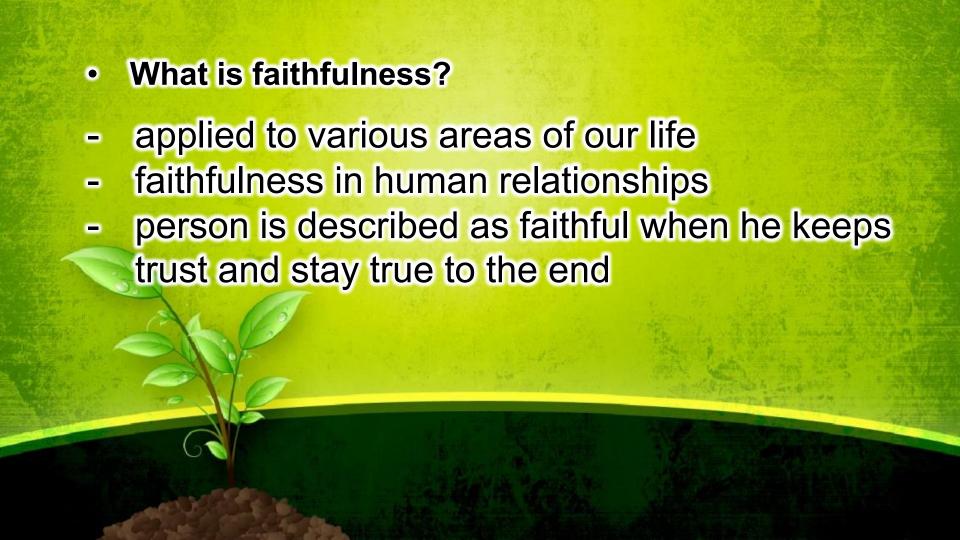
1) Main subject of the parable: faithfulness

- The master of the three servants was looking principally for the character quality of faithfulness.
- greater future plans for the servants
- dependent on the servants' faithfulness

Matthew 25:20-21

"So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' ²¹ His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'





• What is faithfulness?

Some friendships do not last, but some friends are more loyal than brothers.

Proverbs 18:24 (GNT)

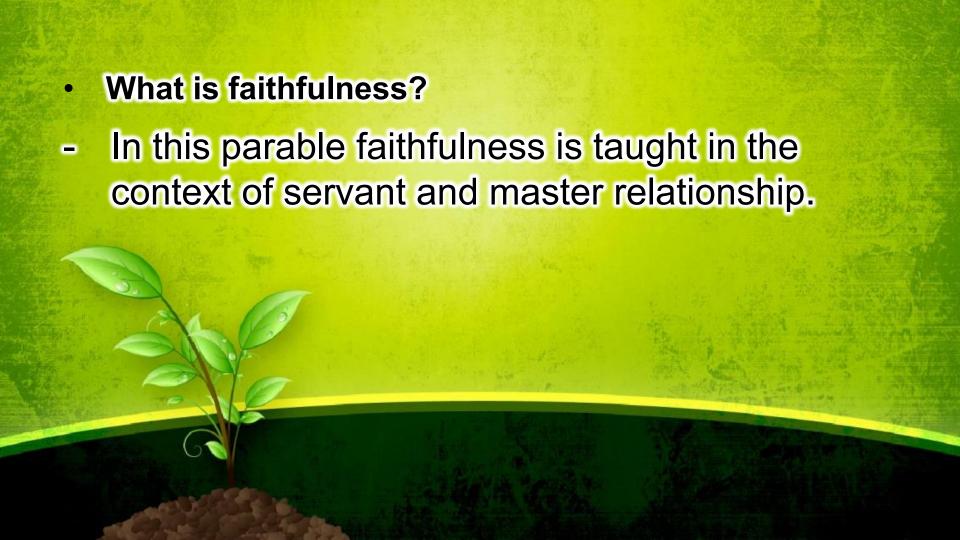
Friends come and friends go, but a true friend sticks by you like family.

Proverbs 18:24 (MSG)

- What is faithfulness?
- We expect faithfulness in the marriage relationship.
- able to keep trust
- to recognize that we have been entrusted with something of value by another person
- life and love

Matthew 19:4-6 (NKJV)

And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' ⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate."



2) The context of our study: faithfulness in Kingdom work

 Faithfulness is a character quality that is highly valued in the Kingdom of God.

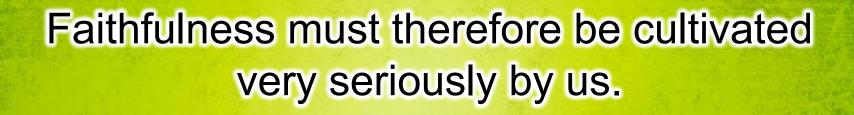
Matthew 25:14 (NKJV)

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them."

- three key words:
- » kingdom of heaven
- » the master
- » the servants

- Kingdom of Heaven value
- faithfulness is staying power or staying on the job in the long haul
- used to be something to be lauded
- nowadays working life long for one employer may be considered quite stupid

- Kingdom of Heaven value
- faithfulness as a kingdom value
- faithfulness is a quality that God want to see in our life as a citizen of the Kingdom of God
- quality that He would reference to when He evaluates us at the end of our life



Faithfulness matters to God and to us for eternity.

- Faithfulness is servanthood
- our relationship with God, we should be faithful to Him
- learn this from the relationship between God and His people of Israel.





Ezekiel 20:30-38

Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations? ³¹ For when you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even to this day. So shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel?



As I live," says the Lord God, "I will not be inquired of by you. ³² What you have in your mind shall never be, when you say, 'We will be like the Gentiles, like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone.' ³³ "As I live," says the Lord God, "surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you.



³⁴ I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. ³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. 36 Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you," says the Lord God.



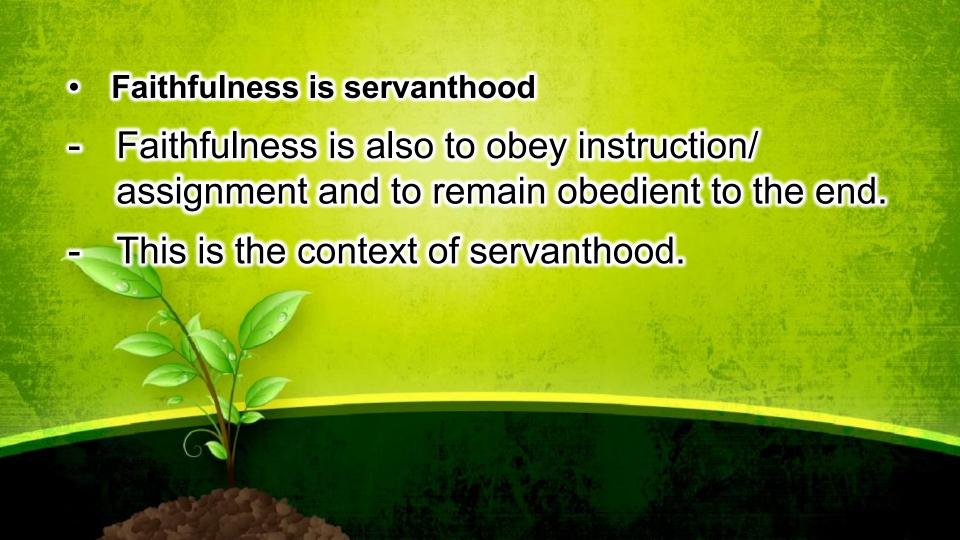
into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸ I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 20:30-38 (NKJV)





- To recognize that we have been entrusted with something of value by another person
- entrusted with the life and love of another person



- Faithfulness of God: The Master
- First know Him as someone who is faithful to us and not just as someone holding us to account.
- Jesus stays true for us to the end.



John 13:1 (NKJV)

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, **He loved them to the end.**



Hebrews 3:1-3 (NKJV)

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. ³ For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honour than the house.

- God stays true to us in that His love for us is everlasting.
- * The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

 Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV)
- The God who called us is faithful.

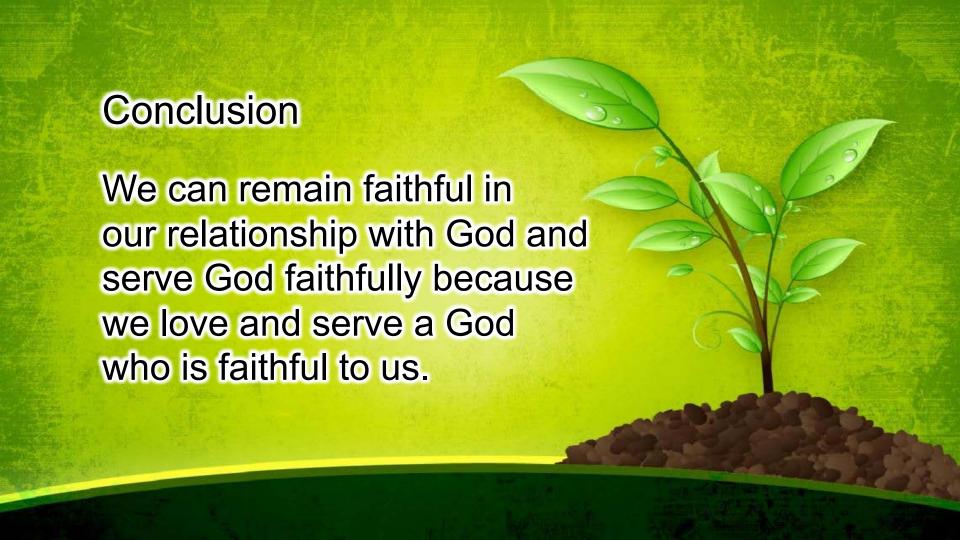


1 Corinthians 1:4-9

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, ⁵ that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,



⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:4-9



CELL DISCUSSION GUIDE

TODAY'S MESSAGE IS ABOUT GROWING IN FAITHFULNESS

- 1) What does a "good and faithful" servant look like according to the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30? What are the outcomes of being a good and faithful servant?
- 2) We can remain faithful in our relationship with God and serve God faithfully because we love and serve a God who is faithful to us. Observe the faithfulness of God from:
 - John 13:1 / Heb 3:1-3 / Jer 31:3 / 1 Cor 1:4-9 Describe an act of faithfulness of God in your life.
- 3) Faithfulness is a quality that God want to see in our life as a citizen of the Kingdom of God. It is a Kingdom value and it matters to God. As a disciple of Jesus, how would you want to grow stronger and deeper in this value.