

Date : 11th October 2026
Theme : Making our Election sure.
Topic : Practising faithfulness to God
Passage : Luke 12:35 - 48
Key Verse : *And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Master will make ruler over His household, to give them their portion of food in due season?... Luke 12:42 nkjv*

Introduction

When we speak about our salvation, we usually ask: *Can I trust in Jesus by faith?*
This question is simply, *Is God trustworthy? Will He keep His promise to save me on the last day?*
God's faithfulness is sure for He never breaks His Word or forgets His promises. He can be trusted. Conversely, *Can I be trusted?* We have to examine our hearts.

God is asking me: *Can I trust you to be a covenant keeper, even unto death?* The Lord's question is, *Who is the faithful and wise steward?* The steward is the manager (*oikonomos*) whom He has put in charge of His household.

1. What is faithfulness?

Faithfulness is our commitment to remain loyal to Jesus all our life.

- a) When we enter into this life-long relationship we acknowledge Jesus as Lord
...that if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord... Romans 10:9.
We follow through this decision with practical and daily responses of love, loyalty and obedience to God's command. In this covenant relationship, God assures us that...
*His love has no limit, His grace has no measure
His power has no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth and giveth and giveth again!*

On our part, God expects us to be faithful.

We enter into a relationship with God when we believe:

- By grace, God offers Jesus' substitutionary death as the penalty for our sin.
- We respond to God's offer by turning from our sinful ways.
- By faith, we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
- We enter into a covenant relationship with God to be faithful for life.
Faithfulness is heeding what God's Word says. If we listen and accept as truth what others say, even when it contradicts God's Word, we are unfaithful and disobedient.

- b) God's criteria of a servant as a faithful manager.
 - He is aware of his assignment — a manager in charge of His household.
 - He awaits the return of his Master (Jesus).
 - He would be graded as good in 3 ways:
 - i) It would be good for him to be faithfully **watching** for Him while serving.
Luke 12:36

What will happen then?

The Lord Himself will serve His servant. *Luke 12:37*

- ii) It would be good that he was **ready** for his Master to return anytime, even when the Master was not around. *Luke 12:40*
 - iii) It would be good that he be found **doing** exactly what was assigned to him, upon His return. That servant will be rewarded with all His possessions.
Luke 12:44
- c) Severe consequences await unfaithful servants.
However, if the manager disregarded the Master's return by ill-treating fellow servants under his charge, the Master would punish him severely. *Luke 12:46-47.*
- d) More is expected from those given much more. *Luke 12:48*

2. Does God actively seek and test human faithfulness?

- God, who is inherently faithful, actively searches for faithful people.
...the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth... searching for people whose hearts are loyal (faithful) to Him. *2 Chronicles 16:9*
- He rewards faithful ones.
In the *Parable of the Talents Matthew 25:14-30*, the Master gives joyful approval and praise for the servant who faithfully utilises his given resource well: "*Well done, good and faithful servant*" is the highest accolade.
Faithfulness means to use your gifts actively for His Kingdom, instead of doing nothing. Conversely, those who are not faithful in putting their resources into good use, is considered having wasted their precious resources.
- Faithful and trustworthy men are rare because faithfulness often requires sacrifice.
Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?
Proverb 20:6

Would you choose to be among the few?

Why must we be found faithful?

- God loathes unfaithfulness, rebuking marriage vows breakers. *Malachi 2:16*
 - Covenant breakers are faithless and betrayers who defile the earth. *Isaiah 24:5*
 - Like Judas, a follower, but sold His Master for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus referred to him as the *son of perdition* (destruction) *John 17:12* to describe one who had chosen a path of utter ruin and spiritual loss despite walking with Jesus.
 - God is a consuming fire to the unfaithful.
Covenant breakers will find God withholding His protection. *Jeremiah 22:9*.
When this happened at the time of Jeremiah, the kingdom of Judea suffered defeat so severely as to be beyond recovery that neighbouring nations began to ask: *Why did God resort to such severe punishment to this great city?* *Jeremiah 22:8*

The answer was simply because Judea had broken covenant with God.

- The bible differentiates God's people along the lines of the faithful or unfaithful.
Paul mentioned co-labourers who had left him and the ministry for various reasons: Demas, who loved the world *2 Timothy 4:10*, Alexander the coppersmith, who opposed his message *2 Timothy 4:14* and Hymenaeus *1 Timothy 1:19-20*.
These men had departed from the Lord. According to Hebrew 6, such would be lost.
- He disowns those who disown Him, through faithlessness. *2 Timothy 2:12*
Without faith or faithfulness, it is impossible to please God.
- God does not recognise workers of lawlessness who rebel against His commands yet point to their own religious works. *Matthew 7:20 – 23*
These are people who have chosen to disregard the will of God.
They may address Jesus as Lord, but the Lord would say to them: *I don't know you*.
- Covenant breakers may not recover at all.
Hebrews 6:4-6 says those who fall away will find that it is impossible to recover.
Charles Templeton (1915-2001), former evangelist, early associate of Billy Graham.
In his early 40's, he left evangelism, became an atheist and wrote a book about his rejection of Christianity. Near the end of his life, before his death at age 85, when interviewed, he still rejected the Christian faith yet spoke emotionally and admiringly about Jesus. Yet, he could not bring himself to repent and return to a relationship with Jesus he had before.

3. How to be faithful?

God loves covenant keepers. *Psalms 103:17*

The faithful ones are counted worthy of the Kingdom of God.

- Renew your covenant keeping with God every day. ☐

- Choose loyalty to Jesus. Be faithful even unto death. *Revelation 2:10* ☐

He has promised ... *a way of escape* whatever the temptation
1 Corinthians 10:13.

The Lord Jesus has said ...*he who stands firm to the end will be saved.*
Matthew 10:22

- Be faithful in important areas of my life ☐

- Be a promise keeper to my wife, family, church, cell

- Consistently make sure my faithfulness meets God's criteria. ☐

- The Apostle Peter in *2 Peter 1:5-7* lists 7 areas for self-examination. ☐

- goodness – godliness
 - knowledge – brotherly kindness
 - self-control – love
 - perseverance

Application

- a. What price will I pay for unfaithfulness? ☐

As a covenant keeper, do I agree that the **consequences of covenant breaking** carry a **catastrophic price**? Consider Judas Iscariot's complete psychological despair, loss of his soul and suicide and the money of betrayal worthless. *Acts 1:18*

- b. What kind of blessings has God promised covenant keepers? ☐

Visualize what it takes to qualify for His commendation *Well done, good and faithful servant.*

- c. Begin practising faithfulness:

- In little things *Luke 16:10* ☐

- Handling wealth that belongs to others *Luke 16:12* ☐

Luke 12:42 who then is that faithful and wise steward whom his Master will make ruler over His household...

- *Luke 12:43 Blessed is that servant whom his Master will find so doing when He comes.* ☐