

Called to Faithfulness 3 – The Blessings of Faithfulness

Proverbs 20:6 - Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?

Matthew 25:14-30 – 14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 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.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 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.’ 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

New York City Crime Statistics

- 1980s: over 2000 murders per year, 600,000 felonies per year
- 1990: felonies dropped by ½, murders dropped by 2/3

Galatians 6:7-8 – 7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

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.

The Blessings of Faithfulness

- If you're faithful, God will guard your steps
 - 1 Samuel 2:9 – He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail.
- If you're faithful, God will reward you
 - 1 Samuel 26:23 - The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness
- If you're faithful, God will defend you against critics
 - Numbers 12:1-9 - ... He is faithful in all my house.
- If you're faithful, God will fulfill His promises
 - Nehemiah 9:8 – You found [Abraham's] heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite... And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous.
- If you're faithful, God will preserve you

- Psalm 31:23 - Love the Lord, all you his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.
- If you're faithful, God will show you His favor
 - Psalm 101:6 - I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.
- If you're faithful, you'll find success
 - Proverbs 3:3-4 - 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.
- If you're faithful, you'll make God happy
 - Proverbs 12:22 - Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.
- If you're faithful, you'll bring healing and reconciliation
 - Proverbs 13:17 - A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a faithful envoy brings healing.
- If you're faithful, you'll be blessed more than you can handle
 - Proverbs 28:18-20 - 18 Whoever walks in integrity will be delivered, but he who is crooked in his ways will suddenly fall. 19 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty. 20 A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.