

Be Faithful!

July 19 & 20, 2008

“Well done, my good and faithful servant.”

Matthew chapter 25, verse 23 (756)

faithful - devoted, consistent, loyal, true to one's word and promises.

Bethel's Core Value # 8 - We believe that the pursuit of full devotion to Christ and His cause is normal for every believer.

The story of Joseph is found in Genesis chapters 37, 39-50- take time to read it this week.

When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance and made plans to kill him. "Here comes that dreamer!" they exclaimed. "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into a deep pit. We can tell our father that a wild animal has eaten him. Then we'll see what becomes of all his dreams!" *Genesis chapter 37, verse 18-20 (31)*

- ✓ Realize that God allows bad circumstances to test my faithfulness.
- ✓ Without the testing of my faithfulness I can't grow.
- ✓ Everyday, faithful Christians are persecuted.
- ✓ Faithful people accept that God may not always rescue them from danger but... they know that God's grace is present in every situation.
- ✓ Don't let your circumstances determine your faithfulness.
- ✓ Don't give up!

But Reuben came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said. "Why should we shed his blood? Let's just throw him alive into this pit here. That way he will die without our having to touch him." Reuben was secretly planning to help Joseph escape, and then he would bring him back to his father. *Genesis chapter 37, verses 21-22 (31)*

GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL! He always forgives, always provides, always shows up when needed and always keeps his promises.

Your unfailing love will last forever. Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens.

Psalm chapter 89, verse 2 (454)

So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't have a worry in the world, except to decide what he wanted to eat!
Genesis chapter 39, verses 6 (33)

God rewards Faithfulness!

The one who plants and the one who waters work as a team with the same purpose. Yet they will be rewarded individually, according to their own hard work.

1 Corinthians chapter 3, verse 8 (871)

The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

Matthew chapter 25, verse 23 (756)

Now Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man. And about this time, Potiphar's wife began to desire him and invited him to sleep with her. But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. No one here has more authority than I do! He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I ever do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God." She kept putting pressure on him day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. *Genesis chapter 39, verses 6-10 (31)*

- Joseph concerned himself with only God's approval!
- I keep myself from sin not because it violates a rule but because it violates a relationship.
- Faithful people are not focused on what they don't have but rather are grateful for what they have been given.

But don't be angry with yourselves that you did this to me, for God did it. He sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. God has sent me here to keep you and your families alive so that you will become a great nation. *Genesis chapter 45, verses 5 & 7 (38)*

- When ordinary people are faithful to God he does extraordinary things.
- God's power in a faithful person accomplished much for Him.
- Give God your best when you have an opportunity to serve.
- *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

Ephesians chapter 2, verse 10 (896)

God is asking me to be more faithful in _____.

Where do I start?

- ✓ Acknowledge areas of unfaithfulness and ask for God's forgiveness.
- ✓ Study the bible to determine what God wants in these areas.
- ✓ Surrender these areas to God's control and follow His plan.
- ✓ Pray about these areas often.
- ✓ Seek accountability to help you remain faithful.
- ✓ When you fail in one of these areas get back up recommit yourself to God.
- ✓ Thank God often for His Grace and power in these areas of your life.

Next Week: *Be Warned.*