

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 22, 2026

“The Heart God Desires ~ A Faithful Heart”

Daniel 6:16-28 & Matthew 25:14-30

God isn't ultimately concerned with our \_\_\_\_\_ performance, religious activity, or even visible success, but something much deeper—He's concerned with the inner nature of our \_\_\_\_\_.

Faithfulness doesn't sound \_\_\_\_\_. It doesn't grab headlines. It doesn't always feel exciting. We tend to admire boldness, charisma, and breakthrough moments. However, Scripture consistently lifts up something quieter, \_\_\_\_\_, and far more enduring: \_\_\_\_\_.

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”  
(1 Corinthians 4:2)

“...faithfulness in the same direction over a long period of time...” (Eugene Peterson)

It's not about a single moment of courage, but a lifetime of quiet \_\_\_\_\_.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.” (Luke 16:10)

A faithful heart isn't formed in \_\_\_\_\_ moments alone—it's formed in the daily choices, the hidden obedience, the steady \_\_\_\_\_ when no one else is watching.

**#1. A faithful heart \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus is helping us see something essential: everything the servants have is \_\_\_\_\_ to them. It doesn't belong to them, nor did they \_\_\_\_\_ it—it was given to them.

This is the beginning of faithfulness: \_\_\_\_\_.

The first two servants understand this. There's no \_\_\_\_\_ or hesitation—they take what has been entrusted to them and they \_\_\_\_\_ it.

The third servant does something very different. He digs a hole in the ground and \_\_\_\_\_ his master's money. The issue isn't that he had less. The issue is that he did \_\_\_\_\_.

We live in a culture of \_\_\_\_\_. We look at what others have been given—their gifts, opportunities, and influence—and we quietly \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves against them.

Either we become \_\_\_\_\_ because we think we have more, or we become \_\_\_\_\_ because we think we have less.

The master in the story doesn't compare the servants to one another. The measure isn't comparison, it's \_\_\_\_\_ with what they've been given.

Faithfulness begins right there—not with having more, but with \_\_\_\_\_ what we already have to the One who can use what we bring to Him and make more.

Faithfulness isn't about doing everything \_\_\_\_\_ or successfully. It's about doing what God has \_\_\_\_\_ you to do, faithfully.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

“For we are God's masterpiece, created anew in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

In other words, our life isn't \_\_\_\_\_. There are works—real, tangible acts of \_\_\_\_\_—that God has prepared for us.

Think about everything that God has entrusted to you. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ those things in the kingdom of God? Or, if you were honest, have some of them been quietly \_\_\_\_\_?

Sometimes we bury what God has given not out of laziness, but out of \_\_\_\_\_.

However, faithfulness doesn't ask us to guarantee \_\_\_\_\_. It simply asks us to be \_\_\_\_\_.

In the kingdom of God, nothing offered in faithfulness is \_\_\_\_\_...These are the very places where faithfulness takes \_\_\_\_\_.

**#2. A faithful heart \_\_\_\_\_.**

“...no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.” (Daniel 6:4)

That's quite a statement. Not sinless, but \_\_\_\_\_. Not perfect, but faithful. And it's precisely that kind of life that makes Daniel a \_\_\_\_\_.

“Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done

before.” (Daniel 6:10)

Often we imagine that if a great \_\_\_\_\_ came, we’d rise to the occasion. That somehow, in the moment of pressure, we’d find the courage, \_\_\_\_\_, and strength.

Faithfulness in the moment of testing isn’t something we suddenly produce; it’s something that’s been formed \_\_\_\_\_.

His habit of prayer—three times a day—wasn’t a dramatic gesture. It was a quiet, daily \_\_\_\_\_. Day after day. Year after year. And when the pressure came, he didn’t scramble to figure out what to do—he did what he’d always done.

“That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.” (Psalm 1:3)

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

Faithfulness isn’t always flashy. It’s often \_\_\_\_\_, and sometimes even hidden. However, it’s exactly this kind of \_\_\_\_\_ obedience that prepares us for the moments when our faith is tested.

### **Where is God calling you to steady, consistent faithfulness?**

The “lion’s den moments” of life often don’t come with much \_\_\_\_\_ or warning. In these moments, we won’t suddenly become something we haven’t already been becoming. We’ll simply reveal what’s already been \_\_\_\_\_ within us.

God is \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are faithful to Him.

### **#3. A faithful heart \_\_\_\_\_.**

“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.” (Matthew 25:21 & 23)

The master isn’t measuring success the way the world measures it. He’s not focused on the scale of the \_\_\_\_\_, but on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the servant.

This is where this passage begins to press into the deeper issue of the \_\_\_\_\_ because when the third servant comes forward, everything \_\_\_\_\_.

“Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and

gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” (Matthew 25:24-25)

\_\_\_\_\_ was the root of the servant’s poor decision not to invest what was entrusted to him, but to bury it instead.

However, underneath that fear is something even more significant: a \_\_\_\_\_ view of the master. The servant doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ him. And because he doesn’t trust him, he does nothing.

Faithfulness flows from \_\_\_\_\_. And where trust is absent, faithfulness begins to \_\_\_\_\_. The first two servants act, not because they’re fearless, but because they trust the \_\_\_\_\_ of their master. The third servant withdraws, hides, and plays it \_\_\_\_\_, not because he lacks ability, but because he lacks trust.

“Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed...or whether both will do equally well.” (Eccl 11:6)

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” (1 Corinthians 3:6–7)

We’re responsible for the \_\_\_\_\_. God is responsible for the \_\_\_\_\_. That’s the heart of faithfulness.

A faithful heart doesn’t have all the \_\_\_\_\_, not does it control all the outcomes. A faithful heart simply says: “Lord, I trust You enough to obey—even when I cannot see how this will turn out.”

God doesn’t ask us to produce the \_\_\_\_\_. He asks us to be faithful. The results—whatever they may be—belong to \_\_\_\_\_.

When we begin to live this way, something shifts. The pressure to \_\_\_\_\_ begins to lift, the burden of \_\_\_\_\_ begins to loosen, and we’re freed to simply walk in \_\_\_\_\_, day by day.



The invitation before us is not to chase \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves with others, but to walk \_\_\_\_\_ with the God who is Himself \_\_\_\_\_.

Our faithfulness isn’t the foundation of our \_\_\_\_\_—Christ’s faithfulness is.