

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Fruit of Faithfulness”

Galatians 5:22-23, John 12:1-8

Sermon Series Title: “The Fruit of the Spirit”

Sermon Series Summary: In Christ, we have received new hearts and new life. With this new life, God bears the Fruit of the Spirit. It’s not something we do. It’s something that God grows within us through His Spirit.

Passage Setting: The gospel according to John was written last out of the four gospels. The apostle John highlights the themes and attributes of Christ that the others do not touch upon. These themes and attributes include Jesus’ deity, His Messiahship, the new temple, and our salvation in Him. This book can be split up into two parts: The Book of Signs (ch. 1-11) and The Book of Glory (ch. 12-21). The Book of Signs covers the 7 signs that point to Jesus being the Messiah. The Book of Glory mostly covers the last 7 days before His death.

Summary: Faithfulness is courageous trustworthiness to God and others. Its devotion is the same, no matter the effect or the applause. Its opposite is a fair-weather friend, and its counterfeit is a pretense of faithfulness with the heart of selfishness. We are able to be faithful, because of God’s faithfulness toward us in Christ.

Central Truth: *“Let us display faithfulness to God and others through the faithfulness of Christ.”*

Sermon Points:

1. What Faithfulness Is Not
2. What Faithfulness Is
3. Our Faithful Savior

Opening Question:

1. What or whom do you think of when you think of faithfulness?

(Answers may vary.)

We are looking at our 7th Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness

Read Galatians 5:22-23, John 12:1-8

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1. What is the opposite of faithfulness? What is the counterfeit of faithfulness?

(The opposite of faithfulness is faithlessness. It is someone who follows Jesus and is a friend to others, only when times are good. We see Judas betraying Jesus and the disciples abandoning Jesus as examples of being faithless to Jesus. This also can describe faithlessness to others, i.e. the Prodigal Son's friends.

The counterfeit of faithfulness is selfish service. There is a pretense of faithfulness, but it is done for something in return. We see Judas pretending to be faithful in his generosity but really trying to benefit monetarily.)

2. How do you describe faithfulness to God? To others? How are they connected?

(Faithfulness is courageous trustworthiness to God and others. Its devotion is the same, no matter the effect or the applause.

We see faithfulness to others in Martha and Lazarus in our passage. Martha serves, without complaining and needing approval. She is serving to serve. There is no condition for her service. It is to anyone and everyone, including Christ.

Lazarus shows us faithfulness to others by His witness and communion. His existence is the evidence of Christ's power, and he does not hide in fear. He shares his life for all to see and be blessed, even if it means risking his life. He also communes with Jesus, even though that means persecution. Faithfulness is a friend who loves you for you, far more than what you can do for them.

Faithfulness to God is shown in our passage through Mary. She gives sacrificially, knowing that Christ is the greater treasure. She gives scandalously, though it be humiliating and even dangerous. She gives of herself, because she trusts in Christ.

They are connected, because if we truly have faith, we don't need approval from man, because we have approval in Christ. We don't need to receive a reward, because Christ is our reward. We don't use others for our selfish gain, because we have gained everything in Christ.)

3. What is our hope, facing such impossible demands of goodness?

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(God is faithful. All of creation is found upon His faithfulness. We trust in the Covenant because of His faithfulness. His word is true, because God is faithful. We know God will save, because He is faithful. Our future is sure, and He will come again, because God is faithful.)

And this faithfulness is manifested in Jesus. He served, gave, worshiped, and loved, though it cost Him everything, being humiliated and crucified. He loved us for us. And that is how we can be faithful. It's experiencing, knowing, and trusting in the faithfulness of Christ.)

Final Thoughts: *Our God is faithful. If He was not faithful, we would be a people of no hope. But He is faithful to His promises. We see this through Christ's life, death, and resurrection. And because Christ lives, we know God will be faithful to save. It's through this faithfulness that we are able to display this fruit to God and to others.*