

# FAITHFULNESS

"For the word of the Lord is right and true he is faithful in all he does." Psalm 33:4



#### Faithful in all He does Psalm 33

March 6<sup>th</sup>-March 12<sup>th</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. <sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. <sup>4</sup> For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. <sup>5</sup> The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. <sup>6</sup> By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. <sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. <sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. <sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. <sup>10</sup> The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. <sup>11</sup> But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. <sup>13</sup> From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; <sup>14</sup> from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth-<sup>15</sup> he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. <sup>16</sup> No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. <sup>17</sup> A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. <sup>18</sup> But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
<sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.
<sup>20</sup> We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.
<sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.
<sup>22</sup> May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.





## WBS FRUIT STUDY

Passage: \_

# FOUNDATION

Write out any key or repeated words and phrases. What is the key verse of the passage? Pick a memory verse and write it out.

#### READ & REREAD

**Read the passage in multiple translations.** Notice any differences. Did anything stick out new when you read it again?

## UNDERSTAND

Ask Questions of the passage. What does it teach me about God? What does it say about sin? What does it say about the gospel? What would you like to research further?

#### INTERPRET

**Consult Commentaries.** Use any commentaries or Study Bible notes to help answer some of your above questions. Write out any insights.

# TAKE ACTION

**Apply the passage.** How does this passage change you? What is one action step you can take from it? Close your time by writing out a prayer from what you have learned.

#### Faithful in all He Does Psalm 33

\*\*Remember to read the Optional Application

1. The power of God. How would you define it? Where have you seen it? How do you hope to see it?

2. Read Romans 5:1-11. How are we counted among the righteous who should praise in verse 1? What happened so that we could be among them?

Why then, do we praise?

3. What are the reasons to praise God given in this Psalm?

4. Read Genesis 1:2-3 along verses 6-9 of this Psalm. Why does the Psalmist praise here?

5. Write out verse 15 in your own words. Look at it in multiple translations. How is this a comfort to you?

6. Read verses 16-20. Where does true power come from?

7. Verse 20-22 turns to the personal pronoun. It includes us in the prayer. How does this prayer affect you today? What does it mean for you today in what you are facing?

8. Read Exodus 14:21-15:12. How does that paint a picture of what verses 16-17 of our passage speaks of?

9. Read Isaiah 8:17, Psalm 62:5, Psalm 130:6. What does it mean to "wait for the Lord"? When have you had to wait for the Lord?

\*\*Optional Application: Pray the prayer of verses 20-22 everyday. Set a reminder on your phone or somewhere you will see it. Memorize those verses.

#### Faithful with a Few Things Matthew 25:14-30

February 28<sup>th</sup>-March 5<sup>th</sup>

<sup>14</sup> "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

<sup>19</sup> "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

<sup>21</sup> "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

<sup>22</sup> "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

<sup>23</sup> "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

<sup>24</sup> "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

<sup>26</sup> "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

<sup>28</sup> "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not

have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'





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#### Faithful with a Few Things Matthew 25:14-30

\*\*Remember to read the Optional Application

1. After reading this parable, how do you define faithful?

2. In the timeline of Jesus' life we are in his final week. He is about to be arrested, tried, and crucified. Why is this one of the final things he shares with them?

3. Read Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. Summarize them below and note how they connect to this passage in Matthew.

Romans 12:3-8

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

1 Peter 4:10-11

4. After reading the above passages, how does the fact that the Master gives to "each according to their ability" encourage you? How does it challenge you?

5. In verse 21 and verse 23 what is the result of being faithful?

6. Read verse 24-25. Is this servants' description of the Master consistent with the rest of the parable?

7. Read 1 John 4:17 and 1 John 2:28. How does the servant in verse 20 display this kind of confidence? How does this challenge you?

8. How does the confidence of the servant in verse 20 compare to the response of the servant in verse 25? What feeling characterized his response to the masters generosity?

9. Read Matthew 25:31-46 (the rest of this chapter). Also read Proverbs 20:4 and Romans 12:11. Does the response of Jesus in verse 26 feel harsh? How do you feel about him connecting laziness with wickedness?

\*\*Optional Application: Every morning during this week, ask someone close to you, "What can I do for you today?" Then do it. Talk to God about what you learn about yourself through this practice.

#### <u>Great is Your Faithfulness</u> <u>Lamentations 3</u>

February 21<sup>st</sup> -February 27<sup>th</sup>

I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the Lord's wrath. <sup>2</sup>He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light; <sup>3</sup> indeed, he has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long. <sup>4</sup> He has made my skin and my flesh grow old and has broken my bones. <sup>5</sup> He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship. <sup>6</sup> He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead. <sup>7</sup> He has walled me in so I cannot escape; he has weighed me down with chains. <sup>8</sup> Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. <sup>9</sup> He has barred my way with blocks of stone; he has made my paths crooked. <sup>10</sup> Like a bear lying in wait, like a lion in hiding, <sup>11</sup> he dragged me from the path and mangled me and left me without help. <sup>12</sup> He drew his bow and made me the target for his arrows. <sup>13</sup> He pierced my heart with arrows from his quiver. <sup>14</sup> I became the laughingstock of all my people; they mock me in song all day long. <sup>15</sup> He has filled me with bitter herbs and given me gall to drink. <sup>16</sup> He has broken my teeth with gravel; he has trampled me in the dust. <sup>17</sup> I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is.

<sup>18</sup> So I say, "My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the Lord." <sup>19</sup> I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. <sup>20</sup> I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. <sup>21</sup> Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." <sup>25</sup> The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; <sup>26</sup> it is good to wait guietly for the salvation of the Lord. <sup>27</sup> It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. <sup>28</sup> Let him sit alone in silence. for the Lord has laid it on him. <sup>29</sup> Let him bury his face in the dustthere may yet be hope. <sup>30</sup> Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace. <sup>31</sup> For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. <sup>32</sup> Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. <sup>33</sup> For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone. <sup>34</sup> To crush underfoot all prisoners in the land, <sup>35</sup> to deny people their rights before the Most High, <sup>36</sup> to deprive them of justicewould not the Lord see such things?

<sup>37</sup> Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it? <sup>38</sup> Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come? <sup>39</sup> Why should the living complain when punished for their sins? 40 Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord. <sup>41</sup> Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven, and say: <sup>42</sup> "We have sinned and rebelled and you have not forgiven. <sup>43</sup> "You have covered yourself with anger and pursued us; you have slain without pity. <sup>44</sup> You have covered yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can get through. <sup>45</sup> You have made us scum and refuse among the nations. <sup>46</sup> "All our enemies have opened their mouths wide against us. <sup>47</sup> We have suffered terror and pitfalls, ruin and destruction." <sup>48</sup> Streams of tears flow from my eyes because my people are destroyed. <sup>49</sup> My eyes will flow unceasingly, without relief, <sup>50</sup> until the Lord looks down from heaven and sees. <sup>51</sup> What I see brings grief to my soul because of all the women of my city. <sup>52</sup> Those who were my enemies without cause hunted me like a bird. <sup>53</sup> They tried to end my life in a pit and threw stones at me; <sup>54</sup> the waters closed over my head, and I thought I was about to perish. <sup>55</sup> I called on your name, Lord, from the depths of the pit. <sup>56</sup> You heard my plea: "Do not close your ears

to my cry for relief."

57 You came near when I called you,

and you said, "Do not fear."

<sup>58</sup> You, Lord, took up my case;

you redeemed my life.

<sup>59</sup> Lord, you have seen the wrong done to me.

Uphold my cause!

<sup>60</sup> You have seen the depth of their vengeance,

all their plots against me.

<sup>61</sup> Lord, you have heard their insults,

all their plots against me-

<sup>62</sup> what my enemies whisper and mutter against me all day long.

against me all day long.

<sup>63</sup> Look at them! Sitting or standing, they mock me in their songs.

<sup>64</sup> Pay them back what they deserve, Lord, for what their hands have done.

<sup>65</sup> Put a veil over their hearts,

and may your curse be on them!

<sup>66</sup> Pursue them in anger and destroy them

from under the heavens of the Lord.





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#### Great is Your Faithfulness Lamentations 3

\*\*Remember to read the Optional Application

1. Christopher Wright's commentary on Lamentations is called "Honest to God" and that is what this book is all about that...being honest with God. How does this passage make you feel right away- does this kind of honesty with God make you comfortable or uncomfortable?

2. Compare verse 3 to Ruth 1:13b that we studied earlier this year. How comfortable are you with expressing grief to God?

3. How do you hold verses 18 with verses 21-23 together? Read verses 31-33 to help with this question. Have you ever spoken both of these together to God?

4. Read verse 26. When have you waited quiet before the Lord?

5. In verse 57, God speaks. These are the only words of God in the whole book. What are they, and what significance do they hold to this chapter? What significance do they hold to you?

6. Compare Psalm 73:16-17 & Psalm 45:5 with Lamentations 3:20-21. How does perspective matter? How does the man "call to mind"? What truths about God do you need to call to mind?

7. The song, *Great is thy Faithfulness* comes from this passage. How does reading the context around that declaration make you sing that song differently?

Optional Application: Watch "Great Is thy Faithfulness" Lyric video. Here is one option: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErwiBz1QA4o</u> Spend 20 minutes journaling your honest response to this song to God.