

## Love Hanging On

### III: The \_\_\_\_\_ of Faithfulness: v24-25

Jesus calls us to be faithful in our Christian walk. To do so, there are a few things to remember.

A. We need to realize that \_\_\_\_\_ will come. Just as surely as Jesus was tempted to be unfaithful to God's work for Him we can be sure that we will be tempted to be unfaithful, not just to God but also to others.

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B. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit's reinforcement and develop regular, positive, spiritual habits. Every day there is pressure from every side to develop negative habits, tempting us to be unfaithful in church attendance, to be unfaithful in prayer, and in studying the Word of God. We have to be willing to say ... "Get thee behind me, Satan,". We have to be committed to hang on to God faithfully, We have to show people that we won't quit or give up.

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C. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ when we fall or are knocked down. Simon Peter is great example of this. He didn't always do right or respond correctly. He made mistakes; he denied the Lord. But every time he fell he got back up again, to the point that when the Lord chose someone to preach the very first Gospel message on the day of Pentecost ... He chose Peter.

Faithfulness is love hanging on. The world, our flesh, and the devil offer us so many reasons to NOT be faithful. But praise God this morning that Jesus, in His going to the cross, gave us the ultimate example of faithfulness.

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April 18, 2021

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Matt. 16:21-25

Faithfulness can be defined and described in many different ways because we see faithfulness in the Bible demonstrated in many ways. God is faithful to us, we are to be faithful to Him, and we are to be faithful to others.

But of the many definitions and descriptions of faithfulness that exist, my favorite is best summed up in three words ... faithfulness is LOVE HANGING ON.

This morning, as we take a close look at faithfulness we'll see how true faithfulness is hanging on to that which we love.

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## Love Hanging On

### I: Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ of Faithfulness: v21

In our text, Christ's example of faithfulness began with...

A. \_\_\_\_\_

In v18, when Jesus declared to Peter I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it, He was making a commitment to Peter and the world. And in v21, He begins to express to Peter and the disciples the plan for keeping that commitment.

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B. the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' faithfulness  
Jesus willingly gave Himself as a sacrifice for man's sin. The extent of His faithfulness to keep His promise and commitment was necessary.

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As Christians, we are called to give our life as a living sacrifice. Romans 12:1-2 ... ***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

The example of faithfulness that we have *in* Christ, is that the Christian life is about commitment *to* Christ and sometimes that commit to Christ costs something.

Do you recognize Christ's faithfulness in His keeping His commitment to you? Do you see, that in spite of your sin, in spite of your pride, in spite of your disobedience to Jesus that His love hung on the cross for you?

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## Love Hanging On

### II: The \_\_\_\_\_ to Faithfulness: v22-23

There are many ways that our faithfulness is challenged but notice with Jesus, the challenge to His faithfulness came from ...

A. the \_\_\_\_\_

In verse 22, Peter, who is obviously familiar to Jesus, unknowingly challenges God's plan of redemption by rebuking Jesus. In many cases, when we are tempted to quit or walk away it is because something or someone familiar to us is attempting to pull us away, to not commit or to not be faithful to what we've committed to.

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The challenge also came from...

B. the \_\_\_\_\_

When Peter rebukes Jesus, Jesus response isn't to rebuke Peter but rather to rebuke Satan. Satan will do or use whatever and whoever He can find to keep us from making commitments to God's work and then to be faithful to that commitment.

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Faithfulness and love always go hand in hand. Just as love faces challenges at times so does our faithfulness to love face challenges. Faithfulness is love hanging on.

You may get discouraged. You may be disappointed. You might be challenged by those who are faithless but faithfulness says, even though there is discouragement and disappointment, I will not let go, I will not quit. I will keep on attending and giving and serving because God has called me to be faithful.

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