

SERMON SERIES: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT-FAITHFULNESS, SUN AUG 9TH 2026

“Remain Faithful till the End” based on Luke 23:33-46 and Hebrew 11:1-12

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Today, I want to invite us to reflect on the fruit of faithfulness—a fruit that asks something a little deeper from us. Because Faithfulness is not simply about starting something; it is about continuing when the excitement fades, when things become difficult, and when we don't see the results we hoped for. It may be easy to begin, but faithfulness calls us to remain—to keep showing up, to keep trusting, and to keep doing what is right, even when it would be easier to give up.

I believe each of us has our own experiences of what it means to be faithful. It might mean continuing to love and care for our spouse or partner, even when things are not always easy. It might mean keeping up with physical exercise when we don't feel like doing it. Or it might mean treating and teaching our children or grandchildren with patience and gentleness, even when they are driving us a little crazy! Whatever the situation may be, faithfulness often means choosing to do what is good and right, even when we are tempted to give up or take the easier path.

Friends in Christ, the invitation that comes for us today, “to remain faithful”, is really important in our Christian faith. Throughout the Gospels we can see how Jesus remained faithful until His last breath. Faithful to His mission and his love for us. In our reading from Psalms, on the other hand, we can see the psalmist witnessing to God's faithfulness to God's people. And the Epistle reading from Hebrew that we read earlier this morning also shows how God remains faithful to God's people no matter how doubtful they are in the presence of God.

With that being said, when we look through the pages of Scripture, we see that the Bible is filled with stories of God's faithfulness to His people. There is a saying that goes, “If we ever doubt the faithfulness of God, we should look to the cross.”

I believe there is something incredibly powerful about that statement. Because when we look at the cross, we would be able to see God's faithfulness in at least two profound ways.

First, the very coming of Jesus into this world reminds us that God is faithful to His promises. God did not simply promise to save His people—He acted. He sent His one and only Son into the world, knowing that the road ahead would lead to suffering and death.

And God's faithfulness was not shown only in sending Jesus. We also see it in the way Jesus lived among us.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus continued to love, serve, teach, heal, forgive, and walk alongside people—even when they misunderstood Him, rejected Him, abandoned Him, and ultimately turned against Him. Jesus remained faithful, even when others were not.

And this brings us to the cross, where we see the fullness of that faithfulness. There, we see the spotless Lamb of God, innocent and without sin, willingly giving His life for us. He shed His blood for all who would believe. And when He cried out, *"It is finished,"* He completed the work He came to do.

Friends, at the cross, we see that God never abandon us. God does not walk away from us. He remains faithful, even before God knows if we would be faithful to Him or not. And perhaps this is one of the most important things we need to remember: that our salvation does not depend on how perfectly faithful we are to God. It depends on how perfectly faithful God is to us.

That, to me, is one of the most beautiful stories of faithfulness we could ever hear: that God remained faithful to us, even when we were not faithful to Him. This is the faithfulness we see at the cross—a faithfulness that loves first, remains to the end, and gives everything for the sake of another.

With those examples of God's faithfulness through Jesus Christ, now we might wondering is it possible for us to be faithful to God? Because God puts a very high standard of faithfulness.

Well, the answer is that it is possible, because thankfully God didn't ask us to be perfect.

In Hebrew 11 we read all the names of God's people who weren't perfect during their lifetime but were trying their best to believe in God and God's promises. They did their best to do their part, to show their faith and their willingness to work with God—even when what God asked them to do seemed odd, or maybe even impossible.

When we're faithful to God, friends, it means that we follow where He leads, just like Abram and Sara left their country for the land of Canaan with faith that God will take care of them. Being faithful means we trust and rely on God and God only.

In our daily life, we must aware that to be faithful means to be reliable, trustworthy, dependable, and consistent. The word "faithful", stemming from the Greek word *pistos*, which it literal meaning is "trusted" or "reliable."

And the most common example of faithfulness between human beings that are not related by blood is faithfulness between two people through marriage. Marriage cannot exist without faithfulness as a part of its main structure. Being married to someone means you are consciously aware that it is a pledge and commitment we make to someone we love, someone we trust, and someone we want to trust us back.

The Bible tells us that spouses should be faithful to one another. Husbands and wives are meant to serve each other and love one another. And besides that, spouses can show their faithfulness to each other by encouraging one another in God, actively loving each other, and patiently caring for each other's needs.

Outside of marriage, faithfulness is actually something we value in almost every relationship. Think about friendship, family, workplace, or even business. We appreciate people we can trust. We value people who keep their word, show up when they say they will, and remain dependable even when things become difficult.

In the business world, employers recognize the value of having faithful and trustworthy employees. It can be frustrating—and costly—to work with someone who cannot be trusted, who does not keep their commitments, or who walks away when things become difficult.

And this means that we can demonstrate our faithfulness outside of the church. Sometimes, our greatest witness is simply in the way we live in our daily life.

When we are trustworthy, keep our promises, remain loyal, show up for others, and when we continue doing what is right even when no one is watching—we are reflecting something of the character of our faithful God.

We don't always have to say, "I am a Christian," for people to see our faith and faithfulness. Sometimes they see it through our actions. As followers of Jesus, we are invited to live out the same faithfulness that our Lord has shown us throughout His life and ministry—a faithfulness that can be seen, experienced, and trusted.

Remember, the very idea behind the word "faithful" means loyal, consistent, dependable, and trustworthy. Abel, Enoch, and Noah were faithful in the presence of God, that's why God accepted their offering, their body as well as their heart. Abraham and Sara were faithful to the covenant God made with them. They became the model of faith because God *"...found Abraham's heart faithful."* Moses in the other story was the chosen deliverer because *"...he was faithful in all his house."* And Daniel was given promotion and power *"...forasmuch as he was faithful."*

There are few things more painful than experiencing a loss of faithfulness—whether in politics, institutions, workplaces, or, most personally, in our marriages and friendships. Unfortunately, our world does not always place a high value on faithfulness. We may say that loyalty and commitment are important, but too often we look for loopholes, exceptions, or the easiest way out when things become difficult.

And we all know how frustrating it can be to depend on someone who is unreliable—someone who says one thing but does another, or someone who disappears when we need them most. The book of Proverbs describes such a person in a rather memorable way: *"Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble."* (Proverbs 25:19)

A bad tooth and a sore foot—two things you definitely don't want to depend on! And that is exactly the picture Proverbs gives us of someone who is not faithful: when trouble comes, you cannot rely on them.

Unfaithfulness, sisters and brothers in Christ, can be extremely frustrating and discouraging to others. Working with people who are inconsistent and do not keep their promises can take its toll. So, none of us should ever want to be that person, the one of whom others say, “I wonder if they will really do what they say” or “I’m unsure if they will reliable this time.” We can never relax after we have entrusted something to an unreliable person.

When we think about the connection between faith and faithfulness, the seventeenth-century author William Gurnall wrote, “How can there be great faith where there is little faithfulness?” It is a simple but powerful question. Faithfulness is at the heart of the lives of those who have been greatly used by God. Staying the course is not always easy, but it is often when faithfulness is most difficult that it becomes most important.

And the reward for our faithfulness may not always look the way we expect. Jesus never promised that life would become easy simply because we put our faith in Him. We may suffer. We may become exhausted. We may even wonder why we seem to be the only ones trying to remain faithful in the midst of so much unfaithfulness around us. But this is where faith calls us deeper. We are invited to trust in God’s faithfulness and, in response, remain faithful to God.

Think about Abraham and Sara. There were times when they must have wondered whether God’s promise could really come true. The promise seemed too great, and the waiting seemed far too long. Yet, through the years, they learned to trust that God would do what God had promised.

Their story reminds us that faithfulness is not always about seeing the promise fulfilled quickly. Sometimes, faithfulness means continuing to trust, continuing to wait, and continuing to walk with God—believing that God is faithful, even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

Maybe our story is like that of the Israelites, who time and again lost sight of God and worshiped other gods because of their impatience waiting for God’s time. Yet, when they cried out to God in faith, God delivered them.

None of us is perfect. We will fail at times as we practicing our faithfulness. But when you fail, when you are facing a difficult situation, when you begin to doubt the Lord, remember the faithfulness of God. Do not be afraid and seek the Lord with all your heart.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, one of the most important things we can do in our Christian life is remain faithful to God. We live in a world where we do not always know what tomorrow will bring. We see wars, famine, economic uncertainty, and natural disasters. There is much around us that can make us anxious and afraid. But in the midst of all this uncertainty, we can hold on to one thing that never changes: God is faithful.

Our faithfulness to God does not mean that life will always be easy or that we will never experience hardship. It means that whatever we face, we do not face it alone. We can trust His promises, depend on His presence, and continue walking with Him.

Because our hope is not ultimately in what happens around us. Our hope is in the God who remains faithful. And one day, when our earthly journey is finished, we will discover that every moment of trusting, waiting, enduring, and remaining faithful was worth it.

Amen.