
Faithfulness

John 21:15-19

“It's falling apart!”

“I feel like you're putting the nails in my coffin!” Tom stormed out of the house, leaving his friends speechless. He had been depressed for months. A recent job change, created by downsizing the company, had left him off balance. He was earning less and had to move into a smaller place. So, to cheer him up, his friends came over to help paint the house. But, he felt such a failure that his friends' efforts appeared to be saying with pity, “Boy, do you need us!”

John went after him. “Were just trying to help. We know you're struggling, but God still loves you and so do we, brother. It's not over; it'll get better”

But it didn't. Tom needed to hear of God's love again and again, and John made sure that he did. In time, Tom was back on his feet, positive and better placed for promotion than he had been before. And to this day, he remembers the fact that John was “there for him,” a faithful friend who wouldn't give up on him... even though he gave up on himself!

Reflection

Peter spoke up, “Even if all the others reject you, I never will!” (Matthew 26. 33). Peter was sure that he was better than all the rest, that he would finish well, even if it cost him his life! But, Jesus knew that Peter was self deceived and he calmly said, “before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times.”

And he did! At the cross, Peter lost his self-respect. He now knew that he, too, was a moral coward. So, Jesus went looking for him, knowing that Peter still had a place in the kingdom and a major role to play, As a faithful friend, he still believed in Peter even though Peter no longer believed in himself. So, three times Jesus commissioned him to “feed my sheep” and in doing so, he erased three denials and restored a man to heroic service to his God.

Accountability and Application

What does Christ's faithfulness to Peter say to you?

How do you feel when a friend proves himself faithful to you?

How are you at being a faithful friend?

Men like to solve problems. But “being there” for someone doesn't mean having all the answers—just a listening ear. You don't give advice, you listen. It takes energy and emotion. Most of all, it takes availability, and communicating that you care.

Prayer: God, please open my eyes to those around me who are struggling. Help me to “be there” for them, to communicate availability and care. Make me your instrument of faithfulness in their lives.

John 21:15-19 (New American Standard Bible)

The Love Motivation

¹⁵So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You " He said to him, "Tend My lambs."

¹⁶He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep."

¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You " Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."

Our Times Are in His Hand

¹⁸"Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go."

¹⁹Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!"