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God Rewards Faithfulness

Ashram Community · 15 November 2026

KEY VERSE

Matthew 25:21 — "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

READINGS

Proverbs 28:10-20; Psalm 37; Hebrews 10:32-39; Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday – 15 November 2026

Context: Perseverance despite hardship.

Central Message: God calls us to remain faithful in every circumstance, to use the gifts entrusted to us responsibly, and to persevere in serving Him, trusting that He will honour our faithfulness in His time.

Faithfulness is one of the most important qualities in the Christian life. We live in a world where people often measure success by wealth, position, popularity, power and achievements. But God's standards are different. What matters most to Him is not simply how much we possess or how prominent we become, but how faithfully we live, serve and fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to us. A person may have great talent but lack faithfulness. Another may possess only a few gifts but use them consistently for God's glory. From the perspective of the kingdom of God, faithfulness is more important than outward greatness. God does not call every person to do the same work, but He calls every person to be faithful in the work entrusted to them. Our theme today is "God Rewards Faithfulness." This does not mean that we can earn God's grace or purchase His favour through good works. Salvation is God's gift through Jesus Christ. Rather, our faithfulness is a response to His grace, and Scripture assures us that God sees, values and honours the faithful service of His people. In Matthew 25:14–30, Jesus tells the parable of the talents. A master entrusts his property to three servants before leaving on a journey. When he returns, he evaluates what each servant has done with what was entrusted to him. This parable teaches us that our time, abilities, opportunities, resources and responsibilities are gifts from God for which we are accountable. The readings today offer us three important lessons about faithfulness.

1. Be Faithful with What God Has Entrusted to You

In Matthew 25, the master gives five talents to one servant, two to another and one to a third, "each according to his ability." A talent in this parable was a substantial unit of money. Jesus uses the master's property to illustrate the responsibilities entrusted to us. The first servant receives five talents and gains five more. The second receives two and gains two more. Both servants put what they received to work. Although the amounts entrusted to them differ, the master's response to them is the same: "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Notice that the master does not compare the two servants with each other. He does not condemn the second servant because he gained less than the first. Both are commended because both were faithful with what they had received. This is an important lesson for us. God has not given everyone the same abilities, opportunities, financial resources or responsibilities. Some people have gifts for preaching and teaching; others serve

through administration, hospitality, prayer, music, caring for the sick or helping the poor. Some have many resources, while others have very little. But every person has something that can be offered to God. Faithfulness does not mean trying to become someone else. It means being the person God has called us to be and using what He has entrusted to us for His glory. Sometimes we underestimate our gifts. We may think, “I cannot preach like that person,” “I do not have enough money to help others,” or “My contribution is too small to make a difference.” But God does not ask us to imitate another person's calling. He asks us to be faithful with our own opportunities. A mother who brings up her children with love and integrity, a Sunday School teacher who patiently teaches children, a church member who prays regularly for others, a worker who refuses to compromise honesty, and a missionary who serves faithfully in a small village may all be demonstrating faithfulness that is precious in God's sight. Proverbs 28:20 says, “A faithful person will be richly blessed.” The passage connects faithfulness with integrity, honesty and a refusal to pursue dishonest gain. Faithfulness is not merely completing religious activities; it is living with integrity in every area of life. Therefore, we must ask ourselves: Are we using our gifts, time and opportunities faithfully? Are we serving God only when it is convenient, or are we willing to serve when the work is difficult and unnoticed? God does not demand that we possess everything; He calls us to be faithful with what we have.

2. Remain Faithful Even When Life Is Difficult

Faithfulness is easy to speak about when life is comfortable. The real test comes when we face disappointment, suffering, opposition, uncertainty or delayed answers to prayer. Hebrews 10:32–39 reminds believers of the difficulties they had endured. They had faced public insults, persecution, suffering and the loss of possessions. Yet the writer encourages them not to abandon their confidence in God. Hebrews 10:36 declares, “You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.” Faithfulness is not proved only by how we begin our Christian journey, but also by whether we continue when the journey becomes difficult. Many people begin with enthusiasm. They serve eagerly, pray fervently and participate actively in ministry. But when appreciation is absent, opposition arises or expected results do not come, they may become discouraged. The Christian life is not free from trials. Sometimes we faithfully pray, yet the answer seems delayed. Sometimes we serve sincerely, yet others misunderstand our intentions. Sometimes we do what is right and still experience loss. At such moments, we may be tempted to ask whether faithfulness is worthwhile. Psalm 37 offers encouragement. It calls God's people to trust in the Lord, do good, commit their way to Him and wait patiently for Him. The psalm recognises that the wicked may appear to prosper while the righteous experience difficulties. Nevertheless, it encourages believers not to envy wrongdoing or abandon their trust in God. God's timing is not always our timing. His rewards may not come immediately, and His faithfulness does not mean that we will never experience suffering. We must not interpret every difficulty as a sign of God's displeasure or assume that faithful Christians will always enjoy material prosperity. The reward of faithfulness is far deeper than worldly success. God gives us His presence, sustains us through trials, shapes our character and promises the fullness of life in His kingdom. Even when people fail to recognise our service, God sees it. Even when our labour appears fruitless, we can continue to trust Him. Think of a person who has served the Church for many years without receiving public recognition. Think of parents who pray for their children through difficult seasons. Think of a missionary who continues serving in a remote place despite limited resources. Their faithfulness may be unseen by many, but it is not unseen by God. The third servant in Jesus' parable failed not because he had received less, but because he allowed fear to prevent him from acting. Instead of trusting the master and using what he had received, he buried his talent. Fear,

discouragement and disappointment can also cause us to bury our gifts. We may stop serving because someone criticised us, stop praying because an answer is delayed, or stop doing good because we feel unappreciated. But Hebrews reminds us to persevere. Faithfulness means continuing to trust and obey God, even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

3. Live Faithfully, Knowing That We Are Accountable to God

The third lesson from Matthew 25 is that faithfulness involves accountability. When the master returns, he asks his servants to give an account of what they have done with what he entrusted to them. The first two servants are commended, but the third servant is rebuked. He has hidden his talent in the ground and offers an excuse for his inaction. His problem is not simply that he failed to make a profit; it is that he did not fulfil the responsibility entrusted to him. This reminds us that our lives are not our own possessions to use without reference to God. Our abilities, opportunities, relationships, resources and time are entrusted to us. One day, we will stand before the Lord and give an account of how we have lived. This truth should not fill us with unhealthy fear. Instead, it should give purpose to our daily lives. Every day becomes an opportunity to honour God. Every act of kindness becomes an expression of Christ's love. Every opportunity to speak truth, forgive someone, help a neighbour or encourage a discouraged person becomes an occasion for faithful service. We should also remember that faithfulness is not measured only by visible achievements. Some ministries produce immediate results; others require years of patient labour. Some people serve before large congregations, while others serve quietly in homes, hospitals, villages and communities. The size of the audience does not determine the value of the service. What matters is whether we have faithfully responded to God's calling. The words of Jesus in Matthew 25:21 are among the most encouraging words in Scripture: “Well done, good and faithful servant!” These words reveal the Master's appreciation of faithful service. The servant is not praised for fame, wealth or position, but for faithfulness. The master also says, “You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.” Faithfulness in small responsibilities prepares us for greater responsibilities. A person who is honest in little things demonstrates the character needed for larger things. This principle applies to every part of Christian life. If we cannot be faithful in our daily prayer, how will we sustain a deeper spiritual life? If we cannot be honest in ordinary matters, how can we be trusted with greater responsibilities? If we neglect the people immediately around us, how can we claim to love humanity? We must not postpone faithfulness until we receive a better position, more money, greater recognition or a more convenient opportunity. The time to be faithful is now. The place to be faithful is where God has placed us. And the greatest reward is not merely what God may entrust to us in the future. It is the joy of belonging to Him and participating in His purposes. Christian service is not simply a means of receiving rewards; it is a privilege made possible by God's grace. Let us live so that, when we stand before our Lord, we may hear His words of commendation and enter into the joy of our Master.

Conclusion

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today's Scriptures remind us that faithfulness is central to our relationship with God. Proverbs teaches us to live with integrity. Psalm 37 encourages us to trust the Lord and persevere in doing good. Hebrews calls us to remain steadfast despite suffering. And Jesus, through the parable of the talents, reminds us that we are accountable for what God has entrusted to us. Let us therefore be faithful in our homes, faithful in our churches, faithful in our workplaces and faithful in our service to society. Let us not compare our gifts with those of others, but use our own

gifts for God's glory. Let us not bury our talents through fear, discouragement or indifference, but put them to work in love and obedience. There may be times when no one appreciates our efforts. There may be seasons when our prayers seem unanswered and our labour appears fruitless. Yet we can continue with confidence because our God is faithful. He knows our struggles, sees our service and will bring His purposes to completion. Remember that God's reward is not a payment we earn independently of His grace. We are saved through Christ, and our faithfulness is our grateful response to His love. We serve because He first loved us; we persevere because He sustains us; and we look forward to His reward because He has promised to remain faithful. Let us ask ourselves today: What has God entrusted to me? Am I using it faithfully? Is there a responsibility I have neglected, a gift I have buried or a ministry I have abandoned through discouragement? Let us return to the Lord, renew our commitment and begin again with faith. May our greatest desire not be to hear the praise of people, but to receive the commendation of our Master: “Well done, good and faithful servant!” May God grant us the grace to remain faithful until the end, serving Him with all our hearts and trusting in His unfailing promises. Amen.