**Series: The Beauty of Faithfulness**

**Today: You Can Count on Me**

**Speaker: Ronnie Norman**

**Faithfulness is the willingness to keep a promise over the long haul.**

***Proverbs 25:19***

*Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.*

***Matthew 25***

*14“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.*

***5***

***2***

***1***

***5 + 5***

***2 + 2***

*“‘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!’”*

*24“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. 25So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’*

*26“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? 27Well 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.*

*28“‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29For 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. 30And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

1. **All you have is a gift from God.**

***Acts 17:24, 25***

*24“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.*

1. **Faithfulness means serving the Master’s purposes over our own.**

***Luke 9:23***

*“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*

**Family**

**Finances**

***Luke 16:11***

*So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?*

**Relationships**

***1 Corinthians 13***

*7 Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*13And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

**Scriptures**

***2 Timothy 2:2***

*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*

***2 Timothy 4:3-5 (The Message)***

*3-5You’re going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food—catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. They’ll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages. But you—keep your eye on what you’re doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the Message alive; do a thorough job as God’s servant.*

**Abilities**

***1 Peter 4:10***

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.*

***Christ***

***Revelation 2:10***

*Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.*

1. **The best things in life occur through faithfulness.**

***Galatians 6:9***

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*