



**'What is Faith' - Week 3
Loyalty - Luke 18:24-30
CCCWL - Sunday 10th January 2021**

What did Jesus have to say about loyalty? - Luke 18:24-30

Our relationship with Jesus begins with the heart.

*A disloyal heart can take us away from
the importance of our relationship with Jesus.*

Our faith is about our relationship with Jesus first and foremost.

A loyal heart towards God and others is central to our faith.

*"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than
for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ...
"We have left all we had to follow you!"
"Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home
or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the
kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age,
and in the age to come eternal life."
Luke 18:25, 26-30 (NIV)*

- Jesus wasn't really talking about riches, or even about family.
- Jesus was talking about the heart. He was talking about the Principle.

It's all about our loyalty.

- The Principle of putting Jesus first in everything.

*In 2021 NOTHING should be more important to us, than serving
God's Kingdom with a pure heart and pure motives.*

It's all about our hearts.

1. loyalty to God.

*"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
Luke 18:25 (NIV)*

At the start of 2021, Jesus is saying I want to be first in your heart, above the riches, the possessions, even your spouse, even your family.

It's all about our hearts.

*"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."
Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NIV)*

- left to its own devices, the heart of man is Deceitfully wicked.
 - That's why Jesus said, ' *it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.*' (Luke 18)
 - In our hearts, we need to put Jesus Above all things, and we can only do this through the power of The Holy Spirit.

*"Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."
Luke 18:26-27 (NIV)*

It is impossible for us to be Loyal to God, to Put God first in our hearts, without the Presence of The Holy Spirit in our lives in 2021.

- The Loyalty of the human heart wasn't just a problem encountered by Jesus when He was with His Disciples.

There has been a struggle with our hearts throughout history, and that is why only Jesus, the spotless lamb of God could take away our sins.

*"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."
1 John 2:1-2 (NIV)*

- This was the first of the Ten Commandments from God, written down by Moses.

*"And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me."
Exodus 20:2-3 (NIV)*

2. Loyalty to Others.

- The story of Ruth and Naomi.

“But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Ruth 1:16-18 (NIV)

- This story is a fine Biblical example of true loyalty.

It is Biblical to base all our behaviours on the Fruits of The Spirit.

- To ensure that our Attitude, our Loyalty, and our Care for others is pleasing to Jesus in 2021.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

- This Fruit demonstrates the Character, of someone who is Loyal to others.

- If you are Faithful to the needs of others, you will be Loyal to them.

“There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.”

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NIV)

- This proverb describes the ‘Fruit’ of a Disloyal, Gossiping heart.
- In stark contrast to the Fruits of The Spirit.

A Loyal Heart towards God and others is central to our faith.

A Prayer for 2021

Lord, at the beginning of 2021, thank you that I know you, and that you have saved me and given me life. Thank you for showing me that a wicked, gossiping heart couldn't be in more contrast to a heart that desires to live by the Fruit of The Spirit.

A disloyal heart can take me away from the importance of my relationship with Jesus. Please show me this year that My faith isn't about outward appearances. Remind me that I cannot earn my eternal life. My faith is about my relationship with Jesus first and foremost. My faith is about loyalty to God and loyalty to others.

Please show me the areas of my life Lord where I let you down and displease you. Please help me to have a heart that is pure in motive, pure in loyalty, and pure in my service to you.

In Jesus Name, Amen!

My Notes

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