

NINEVAH

Stewardship — the faithful management of that which belongs to another; entrusted oversight, not ownership.

Faithfulness — steady, trustworthy conduct sustained over time, regardless of visibility or reward.
Latin: fidelis (faithful) — faith, trust, good faith, reliability.

WEEK 6: FAITHFULNESS THAT PRODUCES

Taught by Pastor Cole Jones

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

Before We Study — Talk It Out

- ☐ Do you tend to measure your own worth by outcomes, or by consistency?
- ☐ Can you think of something you were faithful in when no one was watching or keeping score?
- ☐ What is the difference between being consistent and being on display?
- ☐ Have you ever tried to force a result before you'd put in the faithfulness to sustain it?

STUDY

Faithfulness Precedes Performance

The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did...Joseph's master took him and put him in prison...But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. (Genesis 39:2-3, 20-23 (NIV, selected))

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What are some things that make you want to quit?

At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. (Daniel 6:4 (NIV))

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 2:2 (NIV))

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Does being busy make you faithful?

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" (Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV))

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42 (NIV))

DISCUSSION

For Group Conversation

- ☐ Where in your life are you chasing a result instead of building the faithfulness that would sustain it?
- ☐ What does Joseph's willingness to be faithful in prison, with no promotion in sight, teach you about faithfulness without an audience?
- ☐ Who has God entrusted to you — the way Paul entrusted Timothy — that you are responsible to pour into?