



The
FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:22-23

Faithfulness

Jan. 15, 2023

Recap: Context

- *A group of teachers (Judaizers) in Galatia were insisting that the Gentile Christians practice all the traditional ceremonial customs of the law of Moses (circumcisions, etc).*

Galatians as:

- Defense of the Gospel of faith against "*gospel*" of works
- Christ + Anything else \neq Acceptance by God



Recap: Faith in Christ Alone

- **Solo Fidei (faith in Christ alone)** vs Jesus+Mosaic law

For ***by grace*** you have been saved ***through faith***. And this is ***not your own doing***; it is the gift of God, ***not a result of works***, so that no one may boast. *Eph. 2:8-9*

Recap: Faith in Christ Alone

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a **curse for us**, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, *so that by faith* we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Gal 3:13-14

Recap: Love

For the **law of the spirit of life** has set us you *free in Christ Jesus* from the **law of sin and death.** *Rom 8:2*

Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. *Gal 5:16*

- Expressing **faith through love** and humbly **serving** one another **in love**
- God's word is the **seed**

Faithfulness-Fruit of Spirit

Galatians 5:1, 22-26

It was for this freedom that Christ set us free [completely liberating us]; therefore *keep standing firm* and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, *faithfulness*, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

God's Faithfulness (*emuna*)

Lamentations 3:21-24 (ESV)

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is *your faithfulness*. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

God's Faithfulness-cont'd

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NIV)

The One who calls you is *faithful*, and He will do it.

1 Corinthians 1:9 (NIV)

God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

God's Faithfulness -cont'd

Deuteronomy 7:9 (ESV)

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, *the faithful God* who keeps covenant and *steadfast love* with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

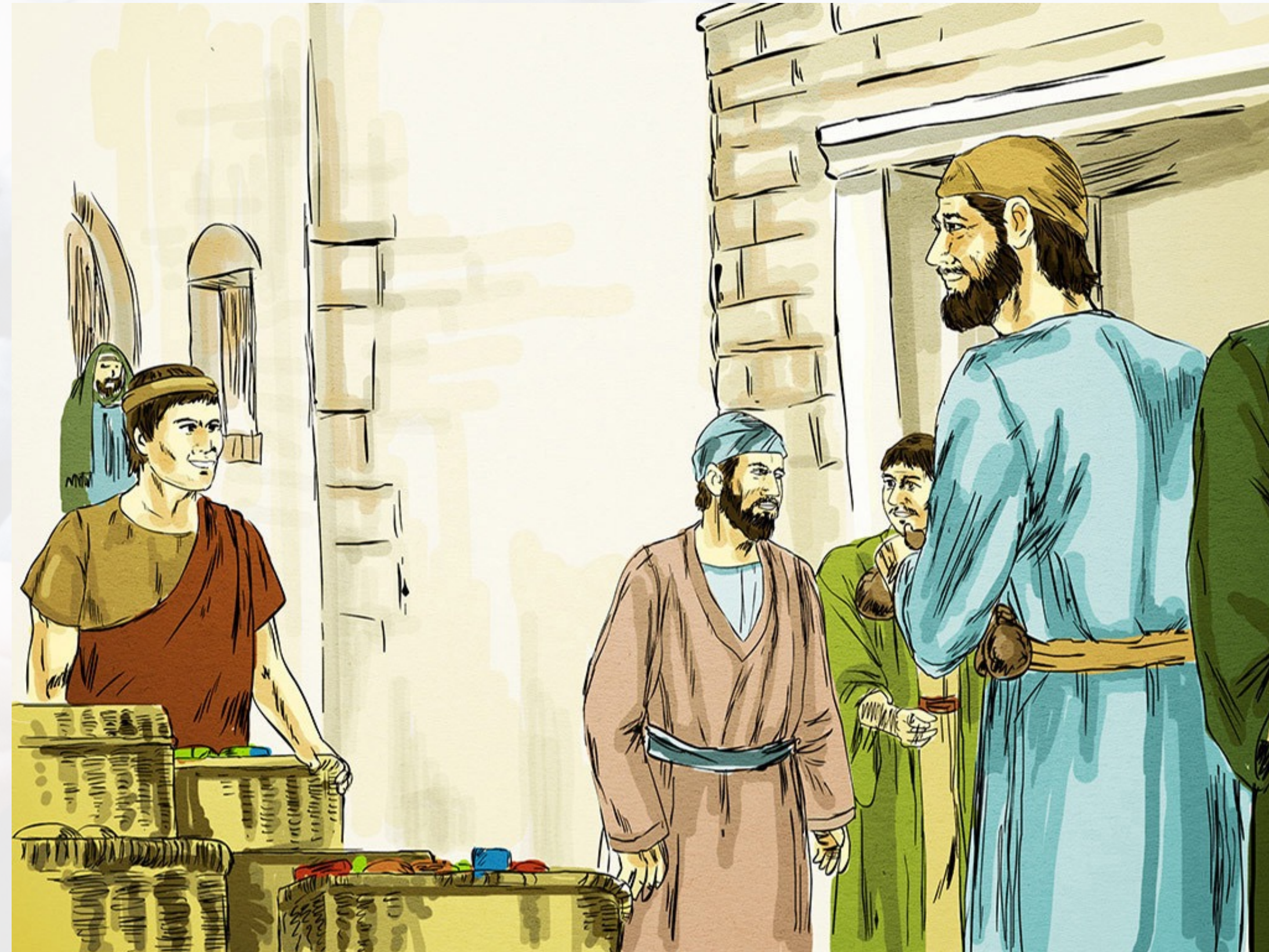
- 2 Tim. 2:13; Num. 23:19; 2 Cor. 1:18; Exo. 34:6; Ps. 89:24

Parable of the Talents (Matt 25:14-28)



14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, **to each according to his own ability**; and immediately he went on a journey.

Parable of the Talents-cont'd



16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.

Parable of the Talents-cont'd



18 But he who had received one **went and dug in the ground**, and **hid his lord's money**. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

Parable of the Talents-cont'd



20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, '**Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.**' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; *you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.* Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Parable of the Talents-cont'd



22 He also who had received two talents came and said, '**Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.**' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; *you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.* Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Parable of the Talents-cont'd



24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, '**Lord, I knew you** to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And **I was afraid**, and **went** and **hid** your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

Parable of the Talents-cont'd

26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.'

Lessons on Faithfulness

- The **Lord is a generous giver** and He has entrusted unto us talents/resources/skills. (*see, 1Corinth 12:7-11,28*)
- What you are **entrusted with will increase/multiply** when you trust Him and **start using/serving with it**. He who has entrusted you is faithful. (*see, 2Tim 1:12*)

Lessons on Faithfulness-cont'd

- **Faithfulness** implies **stewardship** and stewardship implies **accountability**. As stewards, we are **ambassadors** for Christ and working in co-operation with our Master. (*see, 2 Cor 5:20*)
- **Receiving** the talents precedes **stewardship**/using of the talents: We must *continually receive* from (feed on) Him so that we will not be running on empty tanks. (*see, John 6:48*)

Lessons on Faithfulness-cont'd

- We are called to be faithful over a few/little. **God** is the one who **sets us** over much more and **leads** us into His joy. **Our joy** is not restricted to how much we have gained in faithfulness, but it is in the **talent Giver**, the *Lord Himself*. He is the ultimate joy and our relish. (*see, Psalm 16:11*)

Lessons on Faithfulness-cont'd

- Wrong belief about the Lord produces fear, ingratitude and unfaithfulness. Our **stewardship** is only as good as our **Lordship**. (*see, Matt 25:25*)
- It is the Lord who multiplies our actions of faith and stewardship over the talents/skills/areas of influence He's entrusted to us. (*see, Matt 25:29; 1 Thess. 5:24*) **Talent used is talent multiplied.**

Growing in Faithfulness

1. Abide/dwell and Feed on His Word

John 15:4-5, 7-8

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing..." If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Growing in Faithfulness-cont'd

1. Abide/dwell and Feed on His Word

Nahum 2:11

Where is the *dwelling* of the lions, And the *feeding place* of the young lions, Where the lion *walked*, the lioness and lion's cub, And no one made them afraid?

John 6:57

As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, ***so he who feeds*** on Me will live because of Me.

Growing in Faithfulness-cont'd

2. Behold and Seek Him

Psalm 27:4 (NIV)

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may **dwell** in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to *gaze* (behold) on the beauty of the LORD and to *seek* him in his temple.

Growing in Faithfulness-cont'd

2. Behold and Seek Him

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NKJV)

Now **the Lord** *is the Spirit*, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**. But **we all**, with unveiled faces, **beholding** as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are *being transformed into the same image from glory to glory*, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Growing in Faithfulness-cont'd

2. Behold and Seek Him

Psalm 16:8 (AMP)

I have **set the Lord continually before me**; Because **He is at my right hand**, I will not be shaken.

Faithfulness =

LORDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP



Reflection

- **Dwell/abide and Feed on His Word**
- **Continually Behold the Cross and Seek Him**

Ephesians 5:9

For the **fruit of the Spirit** is in all *goodness* and *righteousness* and *truth*.

Phil 1:11

Having been filled with the **fruit of righteousness** *which comes through Jesus Christ*, to the glory and praise of God.



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