

## Lesson 2: Faithfulness

### I. Introduction

In Lesson 1, we opened our Bibles to the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, where Jesus presents a powerful picture of what it means to live as a steward, not an owner. If we were to summarize what we learned in just a few lines, it would be this: you don't own what you own. Every single thing you have: your finances, your job, your family, your body, your abilities, your intellect, is not truly yours. It all belongs to God. As Deuteronomy 10:14 reminds us, **“Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.”** We are not owners, we are managers of the resources that God, in His wisdom and generosity, has entrusted to us. That is stewardship. And as stewards, our calling is to use everything we've been given not for our own purposes, but for God's purposes.

But what exactly are His purposes? That's where many Christians get tripped up. We might understand that we are stewards in principle, but if we misinterpret *why* God gave us what He did, we're almost certain to mishandle it. Here's where the confusion often begins. Before we were saved, our lives revolved around our own kingdoms: gathering money, building careers, cultivating relationships, and striving for recognition or influence. Then Christ saves us. The Holy Spirit convicts us. We realize life isn't supposed to be about us anymore. So we try to pivot, *“Alright, now I'm going to do stuff for God instead of for myself.”* But what we often don't realize is that we're carrying the same self-centered mindset into our new spiritual mission. We've just slapped God's name on it.

Instead of trusting God with our whole lives, we turn Christianity into another performance. We begin thinking, *“If I work hard, God will be pleased. If I use my talents for Him, He'll reward me. If I'm productive in ministry, God will be impressed.”* But there's a major problem with that idea: God doesn't need our help. God is not lacking in strength, resources, or strategy. In Psalm 50:10–12, God declares **“Every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills... If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.”** In Acts 17:24–25, Paul says to the Athenians, **“The God who made the world and everything in it... is not served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”**

If God doesn't need us, why does He entrust so much to us? Why does He give us money, time, influence, and skills? The answer is not found in our usefulness to God, but in His purpose for us. He is shaping us. He is testing and growing our faith, forming us into the image of His Son. Our stewardship is part of our discipleship. It's not about helping God accomplish His mission. It's about learning to trust God's character and promises so deeply that our lives become joyful demonstrations of His worth. That's why we're going back to Matthew 25 in this lesson, to explore what it means not just to be stewards, but to be *faithful* stewards. This lesson is about God's goals for every area of our stewardship: not just our money, but our time, our relationships, our work, our health, every single thing He has put under our care.

### II. Why Does the Faithless Servant Go to Hell?

Let's walk back into Jesus' parable. A wealthy master prepares to leave on a journey. Before he goes, he entrusts his wealth to three of his servants. One receives five talents, another two, and the third receives one. When the master returns, he settles accounts. The first two servants doubled their portions. The master commends them, **“Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master.”** (Matthew 25:21, 23). These words are powerful. God equates faithfulness with joy. The reward for faithful stewardship isn't just more responsibility, it's deeper relationship. It's entering into His joy.

But the third servant takes a different path. He does nothing with the talent he was given. He buries it, and when the master returns, he says, **“Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow... so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.”** (Matthew 25:24–25) The master is not pleased. **“You wicked and slothful servant... take the talent from him... and cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”** (vv. 26, 28, 30)

*Hell?* For hiding money? He didn't steal it. He didn't lose it. He gave back exactly what he received. Why is that a sin worthy of eternal punishment? To understand this, we have to see the parable for what it really is: a lesson about faith. This is not a performance review. It's a heart test. The third servant's actions revealed that he did not trust the master. He believed lies about the master's character: that he was harsh, that he was unfair, that he couldn't be trusted to reward those who served him.

This is crucial: the third servant's view of the master shaped his actions. What he believed about the master controlled what he did with what the master gave him. This servant tried to live in the middle, *“If the master returns, I can give it back and say I didn't lose anything. But in the meantime, I'll live for myself.”* That's not faith. That's hedging your bets. That's being lukewarm, the very thing Jesus warns about in Revelation 3:16, **“Because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”**

Compare that with the other two servants. They believed the master would return. They believed he was worth serving. So they took risks. They acted with courage. They weren't driven by fear, they were driven by faith. And they were rewarded. This parable is Jesus putting a spotlight on what real faith looks like. Not just belief in God's existence, but belief in His goodness, His justice, and His promises. That's saving faith. Hebrews 11:1 defines it this way, **“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”** And a few verses later, **“Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”** (Hebrews 11:6)

The unfaithful servant lacked this kind of faith. He didn't trust the master's promises. He didn't believe reward was coming. So he lived for himself. And in doing so, he made a devastating statement about the character of God. His life said, “God isn't worth trusting.” His actions lied about the goodness of the One who gave him the talent. And that's what makes this so serious, because every act of stewardship is a sermon. A statement about who you believe God is. When we give generously, we're declaring: *“My God is faithful. He provides. He is enough.”* When we cling tightly to what we've been given, refusing to risk, refusing to obey, we are declaring: *“God is not trustworthy. I have to look out for myself.”*

We can't forget what Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, **“No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and money.”** The unfaithful servant tried to do both—and ended up showing he belonged to neither. James 2:17 says, **“Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”** And verse 26 echoes it, **“As the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”** This parable is not about earning salvation, it's about proving it through faith-filled obedience. A steward's faith is not proven by intention, but by investment.

Jesus tells a similar story in Luke 12 about a rich man who builds bigger barns to store his wealth. He says to himself, **“You have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”** But God calls him a fool and says, **“This night your soul is required of you.”** (Luke 12:20) Why? Because his life declared that security was found in riches, not in God. Even if that man had given 10% to the temple first, nothing would have changed. The issue wasn't how much he kept, the issue was what his life said about where his hope was.

## So What Are God's Purposes for Our Stewardship?

This parable makes the answer clear: God's purpose is that we be faithful. That's the goal. That our lives would proclaim to the world that our God is trustworthy, generous, and supremely valuable. That every decision we make (financial, relational, physical, vocational) would say something true about the character of God. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, **"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."** Faithfulness doesn't mean being perfect. It doesn't mean achieving great things in the world's eyes. It means trusting God enough to do what He's asked, with what He's given, for as long as He gives it. As we grow in faith, our lives become clearer reflections of Christ. Romans 8:29 tells us that God's plan is to conform us into the image of His Son. And that includes how we use our time, our talents, and our treasures.

## This Is Why Stewardship Matters So Much

Too often, Christians put the topic of stewardship into the "extra credit" category. As if it's a minor issue, a topic for the spiritually mature or the financially meticulous. But Jesus shows us that faithful stewardship is a matter of eternal life and death. This parable isn't about separating good Christians from better Christians. It's about distinguishing between those who have saving faith, and those who don't. And that's why we can't afford to take it lightly. Stewardship is not just a financial discipline. It's a faith discipline. And God is not looking for flashy results, He's looking for faithful hearts. So the question isn't just, *"What am I doing with my money or time?"* The deeper question is, *"What does what I'm doing say about who I believe God is?"* That's the question at the heart of faithfulness.

## III. Faithfulness Proclaims Who God Is

Let's zoom in on that core idea: what we do matters not primarily because of what we accomplish, but because our actions reveal something (Someone) greater. Every act of stewardship reflects something about the God who gave us what we have. Stewardship is not mainly about success, but about witness. It proclaims the character and worth of the Master. This is embedded into the very fabric of creation. Right from the first chapter of the Bible, in Genesis 1:27, we read **"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."** This is where our value begins. We are created not to be the center of attention but to be mirrors, image-bearers who reflect the greatness of God. That's where our worth is derived from, not from our productivity or recognition, but from our relationship to the Creator. Just like the servants in Matthew 25, our value is not found in the size of our return but in what our response says about the One who gave us the resources in the first place.

And then in Genesis 1:28, we're told how we're to reflect God, **"And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...'"** That's where stewardship begins. We reflect God through both relationships and work. In marriage and family, we reflect His love, unity, and life-giving nature. In our labor, we reflect His wisdom, creativity, and order. It's not about making a name for ourselves, it's about displaying His image across the face of the earth.

But here's the crucial point: these things (relationships and work) only matter because they are means by which we reflect God's image. The modern world gets this completely backward. Our culture obsesses over relationships and career. These are the places where society says, *"Find your worth."* But without Genesis 1:27, Genesis 1:28 becomes idolatry. When we make relationships or productivity the center of our identity rather than expressions of God's image, we start worshipping creation rather than the Creator.

This is exactly why, after the fall, God curses these very two areas. In Genesis 3:16, God tells the woman, **“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children.”** And to Adam, in Genesis 3:17–19, **“Cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life... By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread.”** Why would God curse the very things He created us to do? Because in His mercy, He refuses to let us find our identity in anything other than Him. He frustrates our work and our relationships so that we might seek satisfaction in Him, not in what we can do or build. These curses are not just judgments, they are protections. They’re like roadblocks keeping us from driving off a cliff.

After Genesis 3, our mirrors became cracked, twisted by sin. But the gospel tells us something amazing: when we come to faith in Christ, we are recreated. We are born again, not only into new life, but back into God’s image, only now, into the image of Christ, the perfect image of God (Hebrews 1:3). 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”** That means your life now has redemptive weight. You don’t just reflect God as His creation, you reflect Him as someone who has been rescued, renewed, and transformed by grace. Your faithful stewardship doesn’t just mirror God’s glory, it also showcases His grace. Think about all the gifts God has given you: intelligence, skill, relationships, time, strength, money. Why do you have them? 1 Corinthians 4:7 puts it plainly, **“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”**

Nothing you have is earned in the ultimate sense. It’s all a gift. The job, the platform, the relationships, the ministry, the health, it’s all given so that you can reflect the Giver. You likely have a résumé filled with worldly accomplishments: degrees, promotions, awards, maybe even family milestones. But when God looks at your life, what is He looking for? He’s not looking for headlines. He’s looking for faithfulness. And every act of faithfulness, no matter how small, becomes a line on *His* résumé, a reflection of *His* grace, *His* power, and *His* goodness at work in you. That’s why Colossians 3:23–24 says, **“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”** Your life is not a monument to your achievements, it’s a living testimony to God’s excellence.

#### **IV. Faithfulness Matters More Than Results**

Now, everything we’ve said so far might sound logical. But the world we live in teaches something very different. We live in a results-driven society. We are taught to measure our lives by outcomes, productivity, and performance. Faithfulness is often invisible; results are praised. And so we begin to believe that our lives only matter if they make an impact, a measurable impact.

But in God’s kingdom, faithfulness always outweighs visible results. He doesn’t grade on outcomes, He judges based on obedience. As we ask the hard questions about our lives, we should ask: *Am I more afraid of failure, or of faithlessness?* Failure is about me: my comfort, my goals, my reputation. Faithlessness is about God: it misrepresents His character and breaks relationship with Him. Remember, in God’s economy, results are *His* responsibility. Faithfulness is *ours*. We are not expected to carry the weight of success, we’re called to obey.

Let’s consider an example. Say you live on a hill and choose not to buy flood insurance. It’s a wise decision. Good stewardship. Then, unexpectedly, a bizarre flood hits. You lose your home and with it, your savings. Your plans to fund missions or retire for ministry are gone. Did you fail? From the world’s view, yes, you miscalculated. But in God’s eyes, you may have succeeded beautifully, because you made

your decision based on wisdom, trust, and faithfulness, not greed or fear. Proverbs 16:9 reminds us, **“The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”** God had different plans. And His plans are always better than ours. There are two main problems with a results-based life:

### 1. We can't see what's truly valuable.

Let's take two people. One fights for faith through severe depression and anxiety, holding tightly to Christ through dark days. He doesn't achieve much outward success. He doesn't build a ministry. But every day he wakes up and says, *“Jesus is worth it.”* Another person leads a large, visible ministry that blesses thousands. But the pressures of success slowly shift his heart to self-glory rather than God's. Which life is more valuable in the eyes of heaven? We don't know, and that's the point. 1 Samuel 16:7 says, **“Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”** We can't evaluate the eternal value of someone's life by earthly results. That's not our job. Our job is to faithfully obey wherever God has placed us, with whatever He has given us.

### 2. Results don't last.

Proverbs 23:4–5 issues a sobering warning, **“Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.”** Earthly success is fleeting. Think about it:

- Every patient a doctor saves will one day die.
- Every bridge an engineer builds will someday collapse or be replaced.
- Most of what a teacher teaches will be forgotten.
- Most books written are never read beyond a few years.
- Cities are filled with statues of once-famous people no one remembers.

If we stake our value on outcomes, we are anchoring ourselves to sand. But faithful obedience lasts. Every quiet act of service done in the name of Christ, every costly decision made out of reverence for God has eternal weight. That's why 1 Corinthians 15:58 says, **“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”** Now, to be fair, results *can* be helpful. They *can* serve as indicators of whether we're stewarding wisely. Sometimes a lack of fruit is a sign we need to grow. But results are *tools*, not *tests of worth*. A missionary who goes ten years without seeing a single conversion might be incredibly faithful, or he might be in the wrong field. An investor who loses money might have acted wisely, or might have been reckless. Results aren't the final judgment, but they can prompt humble evaluation.

In the end, we're not aiming for results, we're aiming to be found faithful. Our goal is not earthly success, but divine approval. As Paul writes in 2 Timothy 2:15, **“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”** God doesn't need us to succeed in human terms. He's a better Father, a better Teacher, a better Provider, and a better Savior than we could ever be. He doesn't need our help, but He gives us opportunities to show off the transforming work He's done in us. And so, as 1 Corinthians 10:31 tells us, **“Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”** That's the heartbeat of stewardship. Glorifying God by being faithful with what He's given you, in whatever He's placed before you, wherever He's called you to be.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

### V. What Does Faithfulness Look Like?

We've now seen why faithfulness matters so much: because it reflects the character of God, not our personal success, but that raises a practical question: What does faithfulness actually look like in real life? How do we know if we're living as faithful stewards? Let me offer two broad categories to help you evaluate this: Faithfulness as obedience, and faithfulness as wise investment in God's economy, or what I'll call "Faithfulness as comparison shopping."

#### A. Faithfulness as Obedience

Sometimes, being faithful simply means obeying what God has clearly said, even when the cost is high or the outcome doesn't seem rewarding. In these moments, faithfulness looks like unwavering commitment to righteousness: when obedience means losing out on worldly gain, yet gaining the commendation of heaven.

Let's say you desperately want a promotion at work, or someone at work offers you an expensive 'take-this' in exchange for your help. You learn that you could probably get it if you exaggerated some numbers on a sales call or subtly bent the truth to make a deal close. But you choose to be honest. You tell the truth. You walk away from the deal. The promotion goes to someone else. You don't get the raise. You don't get the recognition. But on the last day, Jesus says, "**Well done.**" Because you were faithful, and that's the success that counts.

This kind of faithfulness doesn't always get noticed here on Earth. But in the eyes of heaven, it's precious. 1 Samuel 15:22 says, "**To obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.**" When we obey God, even at personal cost, we're declaring something beautiful: God is more valuable than the reward of disobedience. And when we respond to God's provision with thanksgiving, we glorify Him as the "**source of every good thing**" (James 1:17). Ephesians 5:20 calls us to "**give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**" Gratitude is faithfulness recognizing that all we have is from Him.

When we give our firstfruits (our best, not our leftovers) we glorify God as trustworthy and worthy of our confidence. Matthew 6:33 says, "**But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**" Trusting God with the first portion of our income says, "I believe God will provide." When we are content, we glorify God as sufficient. Paul says in Philippians 4:12-13, "**I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound... I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**"

And when we give sacrificially to help others, we reflect the character of a generous and compassionate God. 2 Corinthians 9:11 says, "**You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.**" So sometimes faithfulness is straightforward: it's saying yes when God says go, and no when God says stop. But other times, it's not so black and white.

#### B. Faithfulness as Comparison Shopping

More often than not, faithfulness requires discernment. That's where the second category comes in: comparison shopping in God's economy.

In the parable of the talents, the master didn't leave a detailed checklist. He didn't tell the servants, "Go invest in grain futures" or "Buy a vineyard." He simply entrusted them with resources and expected them to act wisely based on their knowledge of who He was. God works with us similarly. While Scripture

gives plenty of direct commands, many stewardship decisions require wisdom. We have to ask: *What would best honor the Lord in this situation?*

That means learning to evaluate life like a spiritual investor, comparing options based on eternal value, not just immediate return. Every time you spend time, money, energy, or attention on something, there's always an opportunity cost. Could that resource have been invested in something more valuable to God?

Consider this example: You have a leaky sink. You can spend two hours fixing it yourself, or you can pay a plumber and use those two hours to disciple a new believer or prepare to teach a Bible study. Which is more valuable in God's economy? Maybe you're low on cash and the faithful thing is to save the money and fix it yourself. Or maybe you have margin and should buy time to invest in someone's spiritual growth. Faithfulness isn't always obvious, it requires discernment rooted in Scripture, prayer, and the Holy Spirit's leading.

The scriptures gives us countless examples of this kind of comparison shopping:

- Proverbs 8:10–11, **“Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is better than jewels.”**
- Proverbs 15:16, **“Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it.”**
- Proverbs 16:8, **“Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.”**
- Proverbs 22:1, **“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches.”**
- 1 Peter 1:7 tells us that **“the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes”**—is of eternal value.
- Mark 8:36 reminds us, **“What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?”**

These verses remind us that some investments don't pay off until eternity. That's why Jesus tells us to store up treasure in heaven. Matthew 6:19–21, **“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”** Imagine watching the news and hearing that in 10 days, Canada is switching currencies, and your current money will be worthless. What would you do? You'd convert it, fast. That's exactly what Jesus is telling us: this world's currency is temporary. The only investment that holds eternal value is what's spent for God's kingdom. So don't just ask, “Can I afford this?” or “Will I enjoy this?” Ask, *“Does this investment reflect God's priorities?”*

Think about your car. You can use it for leisure, sure. But you can also use it to bring someone to church, deliver a meal to a sick friend, or pick up groceries for a widow. Suddenly, your car becomes kingdom property. Or your home. Is it a fortress of solitude or a hub of hospitality? Is your table open to the lonely, the lost, the burdened? That's kingdom investment. Romans 12:13 says, **“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”** And money? While it can't buy salvation, it can be used to express faith, to fuel hope, and to demonstrate love. Remember the widow in Mark 12:41–44? She gave two small coins, **“all she had to live on.”** It wasn't the size of the gift that pleased Jesus, it was the faith behind it. She didn't hedge. She gave everything. And in that act, she proclaimed, *“God is enough.”*

So when you lend to someone in need, even when you're unsure they'll pay you back, you proclaim *“God is my security.”* When you use your resources to get someone to church, provide a Bible, or send a

missionary, you're saying, "*This matters forever.*" Faithful stewardship always looks foolish to the world, but it's brilliant in heaven's economy.

## Conclusion

At the end of the parable in Matthew 25, the faithful servants hear, "**Well done, good and faithful servant.**" That's what we want, isn't it? Not just to make it to heaven, but to "**enter into the joy of our Master**" having lived a life that showed His worth. So here's the question: Have you put all your eggs in one basket? Would someone looking through your schedule, your spending, your service, and your sacrifices say, "*Wow... they went all in on God's promises*"? I hope so. I pray so. Let it be said of us that we gambled everything on God's Word being true, and that we were not ashamed. Because we know the end of the story: God wins. Christ reigns. Every act of faith will be rewarded. And here's the best news: God is going to do this in you.

Jesus has already bought your redemption. He has shed His own blood for you. He has put His name on you. You are His. You're not some accidental lump of clay, He is carefully, joyfully crafting you into a masterpiece. Romans 8:29 says, "**For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.**" You've been created once in the image of God, and now you are being recreated in Christ to reflect that image even more clearly. Your life is not random. Your struggles are not wasted. Every act of faith, every small choice to obey, every tearful decision to give, every moment of trust in suffering is all part of the portrait He's painting. And He never wastes a brushstroke.

So Christian, you *will* fail. You *will* sin. You *will* struggle. But you'll also believe. You'll obey. You'll persevere, because God is not finished with you. Philippians 1:6, "**And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**" The story of your life is a story of grace and glory. One day, in eternity, God will hang the portrait of your life next to millions of others, and it will be a perfect display of His goodness. So ask yourself today: *What kind of portrait is He painting in me right now? How can I be faithful with what He's put in my hands?* Let's live to hear Him say, "**Well done.**"

## Heavenly Father,

We come before You humbled and grateful, awed by the reminder that all we have has been entrusted to us by Your hand. You are the Owner of everything, and we are merely stewards, called to live in a way that reflects Your goodness, wisdom, and glory.

Lord, we confess that we often measure success by what we see. We chase results, recognition, and security instead of trusting in You and resting in faithfulness. Forgive us, Father, for every time we've lived as though this world is our home and this life is the end of the story.

Thank You for reminding us today that faithfulness is what matters most to You. Thank You for showing us, in Your Word, that every act of obedience (whether big or small) is precious in Your sight. Whether we have five talents or one, may we use all we've been given in a way that says loudly and clearly: **You are worthy.**

Father, would You make us faithful?

Give us the courage to obey You even when it costs us something. Help us to compare wisely in a world that's constantly trying to sell us worthless things. Teach us to treasure what You treasure. Fill our hearts with joy in storing up treasure in heaven, not because we are trying to earn Your favor, but because You've already given us **everything in Christ**.

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the perfectly faithful Servant. You took the form of a servant, obeyed Your Father in every way, and gave Your life so that we could be forgiven, adopted, and made new. You didn't hold anything back, and now You live in us, by Your Spirit, forming us into Your image.

Would You do that even more this week?

Shape us, stretch us, sanctify us. Make us generous, humble, and hopeful. Help us live with open hands and willing hearts. And on the day when we stand before You, may we hear those words that our hearts long for: "*Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Master.*"

We ask this, not in our own strength, but in the powerful, faithful name of **Jesus Christ**,  
**Amen.**