



*Faithful Servants!*



*Joshua 24:14-15*  
 "...choose for yourselves  
*this day*  
 whom you will serve!"

*Even as an exile!*

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*Faithful Servants!*

*Recall Jacob in service to Laban*  
 (Genesis 29-31)

**Shepherded the flocks of his uncle Laban for 20 years!**  
 14 - for the hand of Laban's two daughters  
 6 - for livestock

*"I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten rams from your flocks. I did not bring you animals torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself. And you demanded payment from me for whatever was stolen by day or night. This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes."*

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*...Joseph in service to Potiphar, then Pharaoh*  
 (Genesis 39-41)

*"The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When Potiphar saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field, my eyes."*

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*Daniel 6:1-3*

*"Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom."*

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*Daniel 6:1-3*

*"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..."*

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*Daniel...*

*"Distinguished" among the administrators!*  
*Exceptional qualities!*  
*Trustworthy!*  
*Diligent! (Not negligent!)*  
*No corruption!*  
*A lifetime of faithfulness!*



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*The wicked vs the righteous!*

*1 Peter 4:4*

*"...they think it strange of you not running with them into the same overflow of debauchery, speaking evil of you,*

*The wicked vs the righteous!*

*Psalms 10*

*"In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down and plots against the weak... he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord... His mouth is full of lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue. He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent. His eyes watch in secret for his victims... like a lion in cover he lies in wait. He lies in wait to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net..."*

*The wicked vs the righteous!*

*Jeremiah 18:18*

*"They said, 'Come, let's make plans against Jeremiah; for the teaching of the law by the priest will not cease, nor will counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophets. So come, let's attack him with our tongues and pay no attention to anything he says.'"*

*Nehemiah too!*

*The wicked vs the righteous!*

*Psalms 50:19*

*"You use your mouth for evil and harness your tongue to deceit."*

*Matthew 12:34*

*"You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."*

*The wicked vs the righteous!*

*Psalms 5:8*

*"Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies — make your way straight before me."*

*The wicked vs the righteous!*

*Colossians 3*

*"Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving!"*

*The wicked vs the righteous!*

**1 Peter 3**

*"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer...  
But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened."  
But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."*

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 **Daniel**

*Trustworthy!  
Diligent! (Not negligent!)  
No corruption!  
A lifetime of faithfulness!*



**VS**

*Jealousy!  
Plotting!  
Ethnic superiority (racism)!  
Self-exaltation!  
Spite!*

 

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*Gee...*

*This sounds a bit like Job!*

**Job 1 -**

*"In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.  
'Does Job fear God for nothing?'  
Satan replied..."*

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*Gee...*

*This sounds a bit like Job!*

*or...*

*Is this the plan of God for all those called by His name?*

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**Matthew 26:39**

*"And going a little farther...  
He fell face down and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.'"*

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*"And going a little farther...  
Matthew 26:39*

**Luke 23:4** - *So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."  
He fell face down and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.'"*

**John 19:6** - *"...they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him."*

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*"And going a little farther..."*

### Hebrews 2:10

*"In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered."*

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*"And going a little farther..."*

### Romans 8:29

*"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."*

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*"And going a little farther..."*

### Philippians 2:8

*"And After He was found in [terms of His] outward appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the Father to the point of death, even death on a cross."*

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### Daniel 6:1-3

*"Finally these men said, 'We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.'"*

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Isaiah 48:10 -  
*"Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction."*

1 Peter 1:7 -  
*"So that the tested genuineness of your faith - more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

Zechariah 13:9 -  
*"And I will put them into the fire and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"*

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### Check your heart!

*Who are you serving with your life, energies, strengths?*

*How do you respond to (the success) of others around you?*

*What do you seek... crave?*

*What outcome(s) are you striving for in your conversations?*



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