



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

FAITHFUL IN THE LEAST! Luke 16:10

Lessons about being faithful in small things, practical and spiritual.

The verse in the title Luke 16:10 has always been one of my favourite verses in the Bible regarding my life for Jesus. It was always a clear challenge to me as a young Christian to do what this very specific verse++ told me:

This verse is actually part of a parable Jesus told before, but we can also appropriate these verses Luke 16:10-12 for ourselves in so many situations in this earthly life! **I will share more Bible verses later in this article on the Subject; 'LAZINESS AND SLOTHFULNESS'**

Luke 16: 10 He who is **faithful**

in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

Part 1.

Let me start by just saying, that God does not expect perfection, in fact, He will forgive us for all our sins and mistakes and the times we have been unfaithful both to Him and in tasks He required of us. Psalm 103: 1-5 at least

I myself, as humbly as I can say, that although the Lord called me to many wonderful ministries and open doors, **I have also been frequently been unfaithful to fulfil the job Jesus set before Me.**

I know and understand that I have partially or greatly failed in the Great Commission and the jobs the Lord gave me regularly over 45 years, so I consider myself a relative failure according to this verse of Luke 16:10.

HOWEVER, IT IS STILL TRUE:

When I arrive in Heaven and the Next World, I would count it a privilege that I would 'shine the (metaphorical) shoes' of the many saints of God who, throughout Millennia, did a far better job for Jesus Christ than I have done.

Just to meet with them, and have fellowship with the many m(b)illions in the Heavenly City and throughout the whole of Heaven** would be soooo great. I am looking forward to it.

I actually do not feel bad about this, I recognise it as a reality and pray to do better now that I am in my seventies while I am still on this earth! While there is life there is hope! Goodbye earth, Hello Heaven!

But enough about that, let's move on to the great truths of being Faithful to God and Jesus Christ and also the Holy Spirit.

I wish to share at least a couple of experiences I have had with both faithful and unfaithful people while residing here in the earth.

I do pray these will be a huge blessing to you.

Let me start with examples of both the faithful, unfaithful and quasi-unfaithful:

Let's start with this example taken from my well-selling book, 'Pieces of China', which book, is a summary of our time in China for more than a decade (between 2000 to 2011).

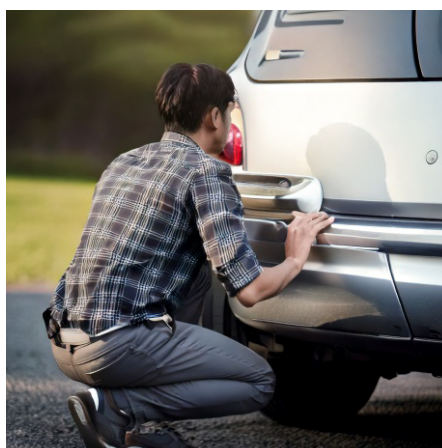
See what you make of this example: I will get back to scripture shortly of course!

1. ATTITUDES (ASIAN

AND CHINESE)

Some years ago, I was having a rear bumper attached to my Toyota Lite Ace van in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. We needed to have our van pass the Swiss 'whatever it's called road-worthy test'. We needed a new bumper. Having obtained a cost price bumper at the knacker's yard, (second hand parts yard), we proceeded to an entirely efficient Swiss auto establishment. There we met an equally efficient and burly German-speaking Swiss man who was very friendly and employed a Vietnamese 'Lehrling' (apprentice).

Having discussed the price and costs etc., with the boss, the boss went off to get a measuring tape and tools. As he left he asked the apprentice to hold the bumper up to the back area of the van to which it would be customarily welded. The young man eagerly obliged and held up the several-



kilogram-weight-bumper. He squatted in place and held the bumper slightly upwards to the Toyota.

The boss was delayed on the phone. A few expected moments turned to nearly twenty minutes.

After some time I marvelled at the young man, cheerfully holding this heavy weight bumper in place. My thoughts experienced several fluctuations between stupidity and fascination. Why was this young man so dumb that he didn't lay the bumper to rest on the ground? 'No, not so', said another voice, 'he is following orders'. I felt a white European 'lehrling', on seeing his boss delayed, would let wisdom take over and lay the bumper on the ground. No use wasting energy, right?

So my thoughts turned about within me. The boss came back finding the apprentice in the exact position he left him with the same smile on his young face. To those of you who are bosses or company managers I would appreciate your feedback. Much can be said on both sides of this attitude fence, if you get my drift?!

While this young man was not Chinese per se, I have seen very similar types of

attitude here in China.

Wisdom can be added later with years, but such an attitude is rare in many people today. I'll go with the first one, thank you!

Such an inclination to please seems to be inherent in many Chinese and other very East Asian cultures.

Of course, this is not unique to the Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese, or Korean races, but there is an eagerness and a pervading attitude in many,, that minimizes sacrifices for the greater good and the end result. **This is woefully lacking in many other nations or races, I feel.**

So just this attitude alone could determine the altitude of a person or nation. Stories abound in China, as well as in Chinese communities across South East Asia, of people beginning with nothing and becoming mind-bogglingly rich. Attitude and a willingness to work hard are two great pluses that cannot be ignored.

2. Local workmen in our garden.

Recently we had a huge storm! It was the biggest

storm here in the UK that I had either heard or seen of since 1987, at which time, the 'Great Storm' arrived here destroying millions of trees!

This storm in late 2024, was quite unusual, I don't know



if it was natural or man-made, but the wind blew **horizontally** across our gardens in this area for over 48 hours without ceasing! Have you ever seen a wind blow horizontally before?

The aftermath of this horizontal storm is that the long wooden fence on our right side, was blown down almost completely. The fence was about 40-50 yards long and over five feet high.

Our landlords arranged for a local man to come and to fix a new fence in, and bolster it with concrete.

To make it short, this man arrived a few days later.

He was in his 60's and had a young man who was perhaps 18-20 years old with him.

I let them get on with, as they entered our property through a neighbour's garden, as there was no fence!

The two men took almost two days to do it.

When I returned in the late afternoon of the second day, I was astonished at all the mess they had left behind in our garden, huge rocks from uprooting the old fence were simply left in our garden haphazardly, as well as a great deal of old rotten wood in the middle of the grassy garden. . They had also ripped two Cherry tree saplings out of the ground and left the uprooted in the place where they were growing, 'because they were in the way!' each of these saplings was worth around £20 or \$25 each.

I hired my own gardener to

come and remove all the rocks and rubbish, which took him nearly two hours and breaking up the large rock with a special power tool. I reported the incident to the landlord's estate agent (realtor). This kind of shoddy work and mind-sets were something I had become used to now in the UK, but it always shocks me when I see it first-hand.

TIPS ON BEING FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS:

- Not speaking as an expert on this, but still under construction myself, I think there are a couple of key points for us who love the Lord on being faithful.

important thing comes which you have still neglected to do you need to call someone or write someone or so on!. This is constantly happening to us as communication from God.

The best thing we can do is at the earliest, write it down (or put in a voice file), what we have just thought from Him, write it down, try and maintain a to do list. Write it in there. Prioritise it and pray where it should be in your list of priorities.

Must do's: we all have must do's. Cooking cleaning gardening, shopping and laundry to name a few.

These we normally don't need to write down, but it still can help you to do it.

a holiday somewhere? A meeting or some other form of family, business or work for the Lord. **Now is the time to pray for that proactively,, before it even happens! Don't wait until the last minutes which is generally going to be a disaster or what some people call 'winging it'!**

I divide my list into these general categories: office (ministry) (emails, phone calls, things to write and content to create) home admin, that has to be done on an upcoming basis, Childcare and care for my child and hear from the Lord and pray about their future and present battles and how to guide them and nurture them with God's Wisdom and Love, and prepare them for the future, as best as I can.

In all these points it is often helpful to ask other friends or family to pray with you from time to time for these things. You may also wish to counsel with them and write down their viewpoints after prayer.

The Swiss cheese approach:

Possibly one of the best pieces of administrative advice I ever received from a Christian pastor was this: The Swiss Cheese Approach. This dear American Pastor was in



The first is that the Holy Spirit is always speaking to us. I call this 'receiving a check from the Lord'. That small thought usually comes, a person crosses your mind, a job or idea appears in your heart or mind, some detail of an

Longer term or coming within a few months: try to give prayer to things that you would like to do or should do coming up in a few months' time or less. Put these on your calendar. Is it a trip for the Lord, visiting relative's friends,

India. He ran a ministry there, had several children of his own with him, from toddler to teenager! He ran a mission home with about 10 to 20 guests at any given time. He and his wife had to have the faith of God to run this important home.

He worked from early to late. He was always cheerful and positive!

Somehow we got talking one day about various things. He told me the best way he had found to work for the Lord, which method he said reduced all stress from his life or at least most of it, was the understanding that 'you cannot do everything at once, but you can do something at once!'

As you do the small somethings that God shows you to do, they made up the big picture of the eventual total accomplishment you had to do. **The whole cheese was the eventual 100% accomplishment he had listed.** The small things



that he did each hour or day were bites out of the cheese, thus making 'holes' in the cheese, until finally the whole job was done. Since his work in this way had so many holes that he was biting and creating, he called it the Swiss cheese approach!

(Swiss cheese often have a lot of holes!)

I don't know if I have explained that very well, but it also helped change my life and I operate more or less on this principle, and with prayer of course, for the last 35 years!

I well remember him waking me up at midnight

as I had been scheduled to 'do dishes' with a colleague for the evening meal. We are talking around 40 people's dishes. I remember I just could not get this burnt rice or food out of this huge and tall pot, despite spending considerable time on it. I eventually gave up around 10 pm and went to bed. He was a very tall brother and shook me awake with a smile, 'Jerry, what happened with that cooking pot? You are responsible for it! The kitchen team are going to need that about 5.30 to boil the rice and eggs in. Please go down and scrub it clean, I'll give you a special metal scourer.' It would have been pointless to try to argue, so after a

few carnal fleshly groans of disbelief from my old man, I made my lonely way to the kitchen and finally got it done! A lesson I sorely needed, and as you can see, have not forgotten!

Do what you can and God will do what you can't!

Just think of Noah, he spent 120 years working on that boat! He could have gotten feverish, thinking rain was coming any minute, but he just went calmly along with his family taking those small bites out of his own Swiss cheese, and the rest is history! Praise the Lord.

Jesus made it a point to talk several times about people who faithful in a few things, being given rulership over cities.

Luke 19: 16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

- 17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.
- 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.
- 19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

What a surprise we are going to get when God

passes out His rewards

to us! Some people serve the Lord faithfully and are diligent in the smallest things and do so with humility and joy. I find it true that most of our sacrifices, sufferings and our years of labour will never be appreciated in this life, nor realised by others until the rewards are handed out in Heaven, the medals pinned on at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and the cities are distributed in the Millennium!

The low places shall be exalted- and he (and she) that is of a humble and contrite heart, in due time shall be highly exalted.

For you have need of patience, that after you have done the will of God, you will receive the promise.

God bless you, may the Lord help us all to be faithful in that which is least.

Until next week, God willing,

Jerry for the WCF Team

BIBLICAL LESSON OR SCRIPTURES ABOUT BEING FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS.

LAZINESS AND SLOTHFULNESS

Definitions: The

Biblical term for laziness is slothfulness, which is habitual inactivity, reluctance to work or exert oneself in any way, sluggishness. Another term the Bible uses for a lazy person is a "slothful."

1. The lazy person takes what he thinks is the easy way out, but always suffers in the end.

- Proverbs 6:9-11 How long wilt thou sleep, O slothful? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? 10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: 11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

- Proverbs 10:4a He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand.

- Proverbs 12:24 The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

- Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the slothful desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

- Proverbs 19:15 Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

- Proverbs 20:13a Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty.

- Proverbs 21:25 The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

- Proverbs 23:21b Drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

- Proverbs 24:30-34 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; 31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. 32 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. 33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: 34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

- Ecclesiastes 10:18 By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through [leaks].

2. The lazy person always has lots of excuses why he's not doing what he should.

- Proverbs 22:13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.
- Proverbs 20:4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.
- Proverbs 26:16 [A lazy person often won't listen to other's good reasoning.] The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.
- Matthew 25:24,25 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering

where thou hast not strawed [scattered seed]: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

- James 2:17–20 [For those who try to excuse themselves by saying that they are justified by faith alone:] Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

3. Laziness is often related to idle talk.

- Proverbs 14:23 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury [poverty].
- Acts 17:21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were

there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

- 1 Timothy 5:13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.



4. Laziness is wastefulness.

- Proverbs 12:27 The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.
- Proverbs 18:9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.
- Luke 15:13,14 [Sad story of the Prodigal Son:] And not many days after the younger son gathered all together,

and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. [See verses 11–32 for the whole story.]

5. A reputation for laziness will cause others to lose confidence and separate company.

- Proverbs 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.
- Proverbs 25:19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10–12 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command

and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

6. To overcome laziness, we must have goals and a vision for what we are doing.



- Proverbs 6:6–8 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.
- Proverbs 10:5 He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.
- Proverbs 15:19 [As we step out by faith, the Lord increases our vision:] The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.
- Proverbs 31:27 She [the virtuous woman] looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth

not the bread of idleness.

- John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.
 - John 9:4 I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.
 - 1 Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
 - Philippians 3:13–14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
 - 1 Corinthians 7:29a But this I say, brethren, the time is short.
2. To overcome laziness

and lethargy, pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit and go on the attack!

- Ecclesiastes 9:10a
Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. [See also Colossians 3:23.]
- Romans 12:11 [Be] not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 9:27a
But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection.
- 1 Corinthians 15:10 By the grace of God I

am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

- Ephesians 5:16,18
Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ...18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.
- Hebrews 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

- 2 Timothy 1:6b Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee.

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