

Trustworthy and Trusting

Introduction

1. Paul didn't trust Mark - Acts 15:36-40; Paul did trust Mark - 2 Tim 4:9-11

Acts 15:36-40 (NKJV) ³⁶Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are doing." ³⁷Now Barnabas [m]was determined to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; ⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and departed,

2 Timothy 4:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹Be diligent to come to me quickly; ¹⁰for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

Trustworthiness, honesty, integrity. Faithfulness is the integrity of keeping our word, our commitments, our promises.

2. Thayer's Lexicon

Greek word "pistis"

1) belief....

2) fidelity, faithfulness

2a) the character of one who can be relied on:

Gal 5:22; Mt 23:23 – weightier matter

3. 1 Cor 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful (*trustworthy* - *ESV*).

I. A faithful (trustworthy) Christian is dependable and can be counted on to keep his word, commitments, promises.

A. **Matt. 5:33-37** – Jesus says to make our word our bond. Anything else is of the devil!

Matthew 5:33-37 (NKJV) ³³"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' ³⁴But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

B. **James 5:12** – "Above all" (why above all?)

James 5:12 (NKJV) ¹²But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and *your* "No," "No," lest you fall into £judgment.

II. Above All, Be Trustworthy!

A. Trustworthy in whatever God has placed in our hands

Matthew 25:20-21 (NKJV) 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.’ ²¹His 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.’

Matthew 25:28-30 (NKJV) ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

B. Trustworthy even in the small things (In this way we prove our fidelity for greater things)

Luke 16:10-13 (NKJV) ¹⁰He 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. ¹¹Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own? ¹³“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

C. Claimed by many, found only in a few

1. “Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful (trustworthy) man?” (**Prov 20:6**)
2. Paul found a few faithful men he could count on. Epaphras – *Col 1:7*; Timothy – *1 Cor 4:17*; Tychicus and Onesimus – *Col 4:7-9*

Colossians 1:7 (NKJV) ⁷as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

1 Corinthians 4:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

Colossians 4:7-9 (NKJV) ⁷Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. ⁸I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, ⁹with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They will make known to you all things which *are happening* here.

3. Sad to hear Paul say, “For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.”

Philippians 2:20-22 (NKJV) ²⁰For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. ²²But you know his proven character, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel.

III. Am I Trusting?

- A. APPLICATION: Christians who love one another will first assume that a brother or sister is trustworthy (faithful).
 - 1. “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor 13:7)
- B. Especially when problems occur, how important is it for me to assume the best, appeal to the best, draw out the best in a brother/sister? At least until the fruit is certain?
- C. How important is it in every relationship that I help people trust me? (*show kindness, respect, trust, ask questions, listen*).