

Demas Forsakes Paul

2 Timothy 4:9-21

MEMORY VERSE

2 TIMOTHY 4:18

“The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Two sheets of paper and a marker.

Masking tape, two brooms (doweling or plastic bats will work), an empty vegetable can (make sure to smooth out any sharp edges) and a plastic cup (make sure the top opening is larger than the bottom).

A large bead, 12” piece of string and tape for each child in class.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Faithfulness?

Using two sheets of paper and a marker put a sign on one wall saying “yes” and one on the opposite wall saying “no.” Tell the children you will ask them some questions and you want them to answer by standing under the sign that answers the question. Ask if these statements are “faithful” or “not faithful”:

Mom asks you to take out the trash but your favorite TV show is coming on, so you wait to take it out later.

Your friend asks you to pray for his dad to get saved, so every day when you wake up you ask the Lord to save him.

Your neighbor goes on vacation and asks your friend to feed his dog, but your friend forgets.

Think of some more situations to ask the children and then explain to them the theme of today’s lesson. **God loves faithfulness.**

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever thought about what you would say if you had the opportunity to write your last words for your family or friends before you died? Would your paper be soaked with tears or words of encouragement?

God has given every believer responsibilities that He wants us to do, and we have a responsibility to be faithful to Him. In our lesson today, the Apostle Paul is found faithful in the midst of persecution. A lot of bad things happened to Paul. He even spent time in prisons because he loved and taught about Jesus. He knew that his time spent here on earth was coming to an end. A lot of people did not like Paul because he taught about Jesus. Many of them brought false accusations against him before Caesar, which would ultimately lead to his death (2 Timothy 4:6).

In Paul's letter we see encouragement for us to be faithful in the ministry that God has given us (2 Timothy 4:2). We are to remain faithful whether it is easy or hard. **God loves faithfulness.**

2 TIMOTHY 4:9

Be diligent to come to me quickly;

Paul was on trial in a Roman court and time was running out. As the trial was coming to a close and with winter approaching, travel by ship was difficult. Paul urgently wanted Timothy to come and see him.

Timothy was faithful in the ministry that the Lord had given him and was a good friend to Paul. Others had deserted Paul in the midst of his greatest trial. He needed encouragement from someone who was diligent and faithful in ministry. Timothy would not let him down, though others in Rome and Ephesus failed him (2 Timothy 4:16).

We can be sure that God will continue His good work in us. He is faithful and will keep right on helping us grow in His grace until His work within us is finally finished (Philippians 1:6).

Sometimes it will not be easy to do what God wants us to do, but to remain faithful we must trust that the Lord will continue His good work within us. **God loves faithfulness.**

2 TIMOTHY 4:10

for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica; Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

Demas had been one of Paul's co-workers (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 1:24), but he deserted Paul because he loved the good things of this life or to put it plainly, he loved this present world. Paul did not long for the things of this world, but longed for the appearing of our Lord Jesus (verse 8).

As a result of his faithfulness in ministry, Paul had no fear of facing the Lord, for he longed to see Him. Yet, Demas longed for what the world could offer, though his reward would not be from the Lord. **God loves faithfulness.**

Do you love and long for what the world has to offer - money, popularity or pleasure, even if gaining it means hurting people and neglecting the work God has given you to do?

Crescens and Titus were sent to continue the ministry in other places. Paul knew they were faithful to the Lord. Because of their faithfulness Paul could send his trusted friends off to other churches with confidence to encourage other believers in their faith.

2 TIMOTHY 4:11,12

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

Faithfulness is not only a blessing to the Lord, but to others also. Luke was a man who stayed by Paul's side. He had accompanied Paul on many of his missionary travels and had shared the first Roman imprisonment with him (Colossians 4:4, Philemon v. 24). Luke also wrote the book of Acts, which tells about Paul's missionary journeys.

The Apostle Paul had also hoped that Timothy could pick up Mark as he traveled on his journey to see him. Unlike Luke, Mark was considered untrustworthy on Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13:13; Acts 15:36-40), yet now Paul longs to see him. At one time Mark was thought of as unfaithful, but with the encouragement of Barnabas, Mark became a faithful servant in Christ. Mark proved himself a worthy helper and Paul recognized him as a good friend and trusted Christian leader (Colossians 4:10, Philemon v. 24).

The story of Mark also shows us that we can sometimes make mistakes and still be forgiven and considered faithful. **God loves faithfulness.**

Can You Beat Me?

Mark two tracks on your floor by taping masking tape in two parallel lines about 12” apart for each track. Choose two kids to have a race, give each one a broom (a dowel or plastic bat will work as well) to push their “can” along the track.

Give one an empty vegetable can (make sure all of the sharp edges are taken care of). Give the other a plastic drinking cup that is slightly bigger at the top than the bottom. They must push their “can” along and stay within the lines of their track and go to the end and back to win.

Afterward give others an opportunity to play. Then explain to the children that the cup clearly shows what an unfaithful person is like. The cup went wherever it wanted to go instead of where it was supposed to. When we are unfaithful we make it difficult for the Lord to get us where He wants us to go.

Also, it is very hard to depend on an unfaithful cup. It is the same for an unfaithful person. The person with the cup probably wished they had the can so that they would have a chance to win. The can went straight and represents a faithful person.

2 TIMOTHY 4:13

Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come; and the books, especially the parchments.

It is possible that Paul’s arrest happened so quickly that he was not allowed to return home to gather his personal belongings. As a prisoner in a damp and chilly dungeon, Paul asked Timothy to bring him a coat. Paul also wanted his parchments and books, which probably included parts of the Old Testament, the gospels and copies of his own letters or other important documents.

Though Paul knew that his life would soon come to an end, he still longed for the encouragement of God’s Word. A man of faithfulness always longs for God’s encouragement, wisdom and guidance, which can only be found through the Scriptures. How could we be faithful to God if we are not faithful to study His Word?

2 TIMOTHY 4:14,15

Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.

You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

It's possible that Alexander could be the same person in Acts 19:33,34 who led a riot to oppose Paul, or more likely, the person mentioned in 1 Timothy 1:20. Timothy was well aware of Alexander's attacks on Christianity and was encouraged by Paul to be on guard against him.

When we are faithful in our walk with the Lord, we can count on opposition to our Christian faith. Satan hates those who walk in obedience to the Lord and His Word. We will find ourselves in situations that will require us to make a stand for Jesus. Remember His Word, for He blesses those who walk in faithfulness (Psalm 13:5,6). **God loves faithfulness.**

2 TIMOTHY 4:16-18

At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Here is the perfect example of God's blessing in a life of one who walked in faithfulness. Though others may let us down and disappoint us, the Lord will never desert us, nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5b, Deuteronomy 31:6).

It was dangerous to be a Christian in Rome, and many deserted Paul. He reflected on his hopeless situation and came to the conclusion: "But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me." Like Paul, we can count on the Lord to help us no matter how difficult our circumstances may be.

Because of God's faithfulness to Paul, he was able to proclaim the gospel even in the midst of great opposition by those who hated him. Through Paul's faithfulness in ministry, the Lord was able to use him and as a result, many people were saved. **God loves faithfulness.**

Paul had the comfort of knowing that the Lord will bring him into His heavenly kingdom (verse 18). Though we may go through great trials, we can have the comfort of knowing that God will be with us, providing His peace and power to get through them.

A faithful person is one who follows God, trusts in Him, and tries to do His will. He watches over and directs every step that person takes (Psalm 37:23,24). If you would like to have God direct your way, then follow and trust Him.

2 TIMOTHY 4:19-21

Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.

Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren.

Paul knew that his fate in the Roman courts was sealed (vs. 6-8), and he was ready to die. Now was the time to greet his faithful friends, for time was running out.

Paul could not do the job by himself. He knew that he needed faithful men and women by his side to share in the awesome ministry of sharing the gospel. A faithful person will encourage others to walk in faithfulness also. **God loves faithfulness.**

Do you have friends who are faithful to the Lord? When our life is over, will you be known as a person who lived faithfully? That is God's desire for you.

Pendulum

Let each child create his own pendulum by tying a large bead on a string (or you can use a small piece of clay or playdough). Have them tape the string to a table edge and ask them to swing the pendulum gently and observe what happens.

Ask the children some questions and make some applications from the lesson. You can ask them if there is any way to stop the pendulum from swinging back and forth? What happens when it is started and left alone? Would it swing forever? Can we go on serving the Lord faithfully forever? Just like the pendulum, we need help from the Lord to keep on "swinging."

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be faithful to the Lord in every way and to be loyal to others. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.