

Luke 1:5-25; 1:67-80

Passage Guide

The faithfulness of our Father is revealed throughout the entirety of the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. Genesis 3 depicts the heart wrenching fall of humanity into sin. The Father had created the heavens and the earth and it was VERY good. However, humanity wanted something more. We wanted to be like God. We rebelled and chose to worship ourselves and the rest of creation instead of our great Creator (Romans 1:25). Our rebellion proved more costly than we could have ever imagined. Isaiah speaks of the result of our sin in Isaiah 59:2. He says, "but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you." The result of our sins is death (Ephesians 2:1-2).

Our good Father's response to our sin begins to reveal His faithfulness. He did not leave us in our death and rebellion. He made a promise that He would defeat sin, death and Satan once and for all (Genesis 3:15). God responded to our sin by radically pursuing His fallen children and promising that He would provide a way back to Himself. The faithfulness of our Father is revealed in His promise that He would provide a way of redemption for all people by sending a deliverer to set us free. The prophets proclaimed that God would provide a way. The Psalmists sang that God is faithful and would provide a way. In the gospel accounts we see the promise fulfilled as God does provide a way. Jesus, God in the flesh, comes to the earth and offers Himself to die in our place so that we may know and enjoy God forever. Our Father is faithful!

Throughout the Scriptures He reveals that He is a faithful and a Good Father. His faithfulness is revealed in saving Noah and his family from the flood, setting the Israelites free from slavery, providing a sacrifice for Abraham in the place of his son Isaac, rescuing Daniel for the lion's den, saving Paul out of his genocidal mission, and the countless other stories found throughout the Scriptures. In these accounts our Father reveals Himself as deliverer, protector, liberator, provider and Savior. The Scriptures continually reveal that our Father is faithful!

The faithfulness of our Father is also revealed in the life of Zacharias and Elizabeth found in the first chapter of Luke. They had spent their lives making much of the Father and believing in His redemption through the coming of the Messiah. They also longed for a child and trusted God would provide. They undoubtedly were looked down upon for Elizabeth's barren womb. They may not have been personal attacks but there were undoubtedly whispers and looks of condemnation. When it seemed hopeless, God's faithfulness was revealed in their lives. Not only would God bless them with a child, but this child would "...turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God" (verse 16). Our Father is faithful!

The faithfulness of our Father is also revealed in the lives of those whom He has saved, as He has given us life and ultimate joy. We were dead in our sins, but He has given us life (Colossians 2:13). We were hopeless, but He gave us hope in Jesus. We rejoice knowing that He is faithful in fulfilling His promises. Jesus said, "*Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going*" (John 14:1-2). Because of God's perfect faithfulness we joyfully trust in this promise and give our life to it. We groan along with the earth and anxiously await the return of Jesus, rejoicing that our Father has looked upon us with favor.

For those who are saved, we all have aspects of our life that we desire to see changed by God, and we long for the

"...inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading..." that Jesus has purchased on our behalf and that is being kept in heaven for us. We trust in God's faithfulness to bring about these changes and to unite us with Him perfectly forever, for He has countlessly revealed Himself as faithful and true. We long for the return of Jesus and know we can trust the Father's promise. We rejoice that hope has come and glory is coming!

Application Questions

- God has demonstrated faithfulness across millennia. How has God showed Himself faithful in your short life?
- What in your life do you desire more than God and use to temporarily fulfill your longing for Him?
- What areas of your life breed constant worry and hope for change? What do the Scriptures say about God's faithfulness in these areas?

Prayer

- That God would help us to see His faithfulness despite our fears and worries
- That our lives would reflect a dependence on God's faithfulness and that this would be evident to those in our lives
- That our city would come to know the joy of having hope in Jesus and trust that ultimate glory is coming