

February 2nd, 2025

Malachi 2:10-16 - How Great is the Faithfulness of God! (Sermon Transcript)

All right, Malachi chapter two, verses 10 through 16.

It says, have we not all one father has not one. God created us. Why, then, are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? Judah has been faithless. An abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the Lord, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

May the Lord cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this. Who brings an offering to the Lord of hosts? This is the second thing you do You cover the Lord's altar with tears With weeping and groaning because he is no long because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hands But you say why does he not?

Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth To whom you have been faithless Though she is your companion and your wife by covenant Did he not make them one with a portion of the Spirit in their union? What was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit. And do not be faithless. This is the word of the Lord. Father, open our eyes to behold the wonderful truths from your word.

Lord, as we work through this text, we see that your heart is faithful to your glory and to your people. Lord, help us to be faithful to you. To abandon all idols or anything we treasure more than you. Help us to be faithful to you. In your name we pray. Amen. Let me share my heart for a moment this morning.

Today's sermon is, you can look at as part one of a two part series as we gear up for our, the birthday Sunday in the future of Grace Life. As we've already mentioned, next week we are celebrating 10 years as a church. 10 years. I've been thinking about this quite a bit the last couple of months. I'm just thinking through all the Facebook memories that come up, and a lot that has transpired over a decade.



I look at pictures and I look different. I was 28 years old when we started Grace Life. I'm like 60 now, I feel at times.

The church we have now is not the church I thought we would have. There's only a handful of you that were there early on in February of 2015.

When we began meeting that fall of 2014, just a few of us in a living room, we had these big visions, big dreams for our church. They were big, because we have a big God, right? We wanted this is where Grace Life is going. And so I have all of this written down, for my own sake, as a reminder of what we're going to be talking about today.

Here is where this big dream, big vision, I believe God was taking us on. By this point, ten years in, you would see multiple campuses. multiple church plants, missionaries sent out.

That has not been the case.

And that wasn't the reality. It was a big vision and big dream because I've realized over time that I had a very big pride in myself. We had a hundred people on our first Sunday at Grace Life at Lake Asbury Elementary School. And it was, I will never forget it. There are just like five big days in my life.

Became a Christian, when I married Julie, the birth of my two kids, and the birth of Grace Life. Five big those are things that will always be near to my heart. We had a hundred on that first day. I remember leaving yes, this is, we're going, right? A few of you remember those first that first Sunday.

I hope you don't remember that sermon, honestly. I'm going to re preach that sermon next Sunday, and it's going to be just a little different. That week, I get all the calls from my pastor friends. And they're like, how'd it go? And we're like, we had over 100. I didn't tell them it was 100 because maybe I miscounted.

And over 100 could be 187, right? If you see where I'm going, this is a struggle with early on. Sharing my heart a little bit. So we're gearing up for week 2. We borrowed extra chairs from First Baptist Church of Orange Park. We put them out there. We had 100 on day 1. Man, what's day 2 gonna be? Less than 30.

And boy, let me tell you, when you're preaching to less than, and that was kids too. There's probably like 10 people in this auditorium. Less than ten, you're preaching to them, and then you have a hundred chairs out. You're like, I have, something went



wrong somewhere. And so I just remember leaving that day, telling Julie, and just getting in the car and telling her, Did we make a mistake somewhere?

Because this is not what they said was gonna happen. And so what, when you're planting a church, they always tell you, week one is always big. And you're always gearing up for week one. They never tell you what to do in week two. And it was a crushing blow. And so we just like, alright. Over time the Lord did a work.

We met a lot of people and we started seeing our church grow. And starting to see new families. Lots of cool things happened between 2015 and 2018.

But what I was wrestling with and struggling with, is I thought it was all on me. I thought I was responsible for building this church. And I thought I was the one who deserved all the credit. Not when it went bad though. That was someone else's fault. Of course, I would publicly say Jesus is the head of the church.

I believe that theologically. Jesus is the head of the church. Jesus is the one who builds his church. But Jesus knew my heart even when no one else did. I thought it landed on my shoulders. And so when it came to grace life, someone was going to win out. It was either me or Jesus. And Jesus always wins.

Between 2015 and 2018, I lived under this crushing weight of That maybe outside of Jesus, only Julie was aware of. We were drowning. We went through miscarriages, medical debt. We had a house that was, that we were upside down in, that we could not sell. And honestly, Julie and I have talked about it, and this is why I can, just sharing this now.

It's a miracle we're still here today. In fact, it's a gift of God's grace that we've, that we're, I'm still standing here. Because there was moments during the season. And if church planning, those first three years, it's make it or break it. Like after year three, not many churches make it past year three.

And so we just, we weren't sure what to do. In 2017, towards the end of 2017, I realized I was spiraling. I was pastoring a church, and I'm going to say this and I'm going to clarify, okay? This is all good. I was spiraling and I was pastoring a church I didn't like. And here's what I mean by that. I love the people.

But we had become something that I convictionally did not believe a church should be. Let me give you an example of this. And so many of you are new to our church past this season. And there's a part of me that I'm thankful for. During this year, this is, I was trying to be someone I was not intended to be.



And I was, we were doing things that I believed we shouldn't be doing, but we did it anyways because this is what we did a sermon series through the Song of Solomon. Anybody remember this sermon series? Alright, a few, okay? We did this sermon series through Song of Solomon, and we called it Love Songs.

And before we, I would get up to preach, we would play a clip from Taylor Swift's It's a Love Story. And it would, there's this video played and I'd get up and preach. And part of me is I can't even believe we did that right now. This is such a big shift in our church, just philosophically. And I would cringe every time I would play.

But this is what we needed to do. This is how you reach people. So in 2017, just praying through things and wrestling with it, we just said, we just gotta change course. It's not going the way it needs to be going. So in the fall of 2017, we walked through a sermon series in the book of James. Talking about the faith in the Lord is a faith that is always working.

It's active. We're not just saying we have faith in God, but we're living it out too. And I believe this was a catalyst for change at Grace Life. But I still hadn't realized that it was, I was thinking I could do it. In the middle of this, we went through miscarriage number four. And to spare you a lot of the details, it was during a time where we just got a couple of phone calls and realized, man, I don't even know why anybody wants a pastor in the first place, if I'm being honest.

And Lord, just, it was a difficult season. And there's more that can be said about the following year.

In February of 2018, I didn't know where, what we, I was just treading water. In February 2018 I just, we were going to do a sermon series and I said we're not going to do that, we're going to just do something different. And we went to Second Timothy, and we preached a sermon, I preached a sermon, a three week sermon series from Second Timothy called God Wrote a Book.

And we talked about how God is not silent, God is always moving and active, and he speaks through his word. And it was from here where we just said, what we do as a church. must come from God's Word. It does not come from experts, it does not come from other books, it first begins in God's Word. And so for all of 2018, me and, Ben wasn't even, Pastor Ben there yet, we worked through, what does our church look like?

What does the next seven years of our church look like? So we were in year three, we're looking to year ten. What does it look like? And so in the fall of 2018, we ditched the old logo, we rebranded, and then God began to do a renewal work in



us. We are a church committed to sharing God's grace with every life that is proclaimed in the scriptures.

We wanted to disciple people. We wanted them to grow in God's grace, teaching them to deny ungodliness and worldly passions and to live for his glory and his glory alone. So in September 2018, I brought in a carpenter's square. I don't know if anybody can remember this. I said, a carpenter's square you put at the beginning of a project, and it helps you know where the project is going, right?

If you're at a square at the beginning, you're gonna be really at a square in the end. And I told our church, I told us, we're at a square right now, and we're gonna square ourselves back up. With God's word and so this began just this intentional focus that really we have seen the fruition with fruition of the last couple of years. For the first time this past year for the first time ever in our church all of our major leadership positions are staffed by incredible volunteers that we are every five weeks.

Someone else is preaching at our church. We're seeing gospel conversations and baptisms. We're seeing the Lord do what he knew what we knew he would do because it's not about us. It's about him in his glory. There's so much more that we could talk about. We didn't even get to the covid years when we celebrate our 20th birthday.

Maybe I'll have had time to process that and we could talk about it then, right? But as I look back and just rejoicing and celebrating what the Lord has been doing, I keep thinking about this. And here's how I've just been thinking, why I've been thinking about it. A couple months ago I sat with a church planter who's in year two, and he is drowning.

And I just looked at him and said, Brother, let me tell you something. This is the season when you learn that God is always faithful. He is always faithful. You look out, and these big dreams that you have for this church that you love are not what you thought. But that does not mean God failed, it just means we're not looking at to where God is faithful.

So as we look at Malachi chapter 2, and as we look forward to the next 10 years, and look forward to celebrating our 10th birthday next year,

we celebrate how great is the faithfulness of God towards us. I look out in this room, and even some text messages I've gotten from some people who are out of town and are sick, I see different lives changed by the grace of Jesus. Some of you baptized here, came to faith here,



I see kids who are now married and teaching in kid life with babies on the way, and God is faithful every step of the way. Some of you have been through the hardest things you have ever faced in your life, and

God has been faithful every step of the way. And right now some of you are going through things and you're like, I don't even know what tomorrow looks like. There's a lot of answers that I'm looking for. God is faithful every step of the way. How great is God's faithfulness towards us. And I think why I wanted to open up in this manner is because so often we don't see God's faithfulness in the moment.

It takes a lot of hindsight to look back and say, Lord, why didn't you send someone in my life to tell me you are 28 years old, you shouldn't be starting a church. I've actually told that to Pastor David at First Baptist Church at Orange Park. Like, why didn't you tell me? Because the Lord knew I needed to learn that he was faithful in all things.

Why didn't someone tell us you shouldn't start a church three weeks before you're about to have a baby? Because the Lord needed to teach us that he is faithful in all things. Why are you going through these different things you're facing right now? Because the Lord in his grace reminds us that he is faithful in all things.

In Malachi chapter 2, 10 through 16, we see this. The people of God are not being faithful. God is. In fact, the word faithful is not used in this passage. Let's be clear about that. If you were looking through there, you're like, I don't see this work. It's not there. It's an underlying theme because they have not done what God wants them to do.

They have not responded in according to God's character. This is, we're looking at God's character and God is saying this is who you should be. But we do see the word faithless, or your translation may say treacherous or betrayal, five times. The actions of the faithless people are in stark contrast to the faithfulness of God.

And God's calling His people, He's calling us. So not only remember that he is always faithful, but he's calling us to be faithful to the one faithful and true God. This is how we are to live our lives. It's not like he's telling us to do something that he's never done before. He is faithful.

The word faithful refers to refer to firmness and security. It represents someone who is always reliable. They are present. Providing, personable, unchanging. Malachi 3. 6 that we'll look at here in a few weeks tells us God is unchanging. He never changes.



Faithful is who God is. God being faithful means we can confidently expect God to always be the same.

Always be the same. Anybody ever been to Yellowstone National Park? Have you ever seen Old Faithful? I've never, it's it's on my, we're going to do this here soon, okay? But in 1870, there was a group of travelers, and I don't know if they were lost, alright, I don't know how they just stopped by in this area, I don't know I checked out a book from the library because now I'm very curious, and this is where my brain goes.

And so they stopped there, and realized these geysers are just going off every, once in a while. In fact, there was one that would just periodically go off, and they started realizing, it just does this is what it does. And they named that erupting geyser Old Faithful. Because, every 44 minutes to 2 hours, it's going to erupt at least 90 to 184 feet.

This is what it does. And I imagine it's quite the sight to see in person. Now, if Old Faithful stopped erupting every 44 minutes to 2 and a half hours, and let's say it went to a 1 to 2 day rotation, you'd then wonder why it was given the name Old Faithful if it went from this to that. And then let's say it went to 3 months.

And then went back to 44 minutes and two and a half hours. Could you call this guy's your Old Faithful? No. It would have some inconsistencies in it. You could look at it and say it did this and then it did that. It's like it can't make up his mind. Even more faithful than Old Faithful is the God who created Old Faithful.

He is always faithful. So if God is what he says he is now, guess what he's gonna do tomorrow? He's the same. What about six months from now? What we can expect from the Lord as revealed to us through his word and through his son Jesus is what we can expect in the future. Hebrews 13, 8, a verse we'll read a couple times today.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. He is unchanging, always. He is always faithful. He is always reliable. What with Jesus is what you get. Faithfulness is an essential part of who God is. As Malachi 2, 10 begins, it says, Do we not all? Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?

There is this call to look at the character of God. Now let me be clear here. In this context, this is important. In this context, God is speaking through Malachi to His people. So this we here does not refer to everybody. It refers to just God's people. God is not the Father of all people. He's the Father of His people.



So this is not some universalist verse here, okay? Does that make sense? Now God created all people for sure. But some people belong to their father the devil is what Jesus says so there are some people who would say God We're all God's children God created all people in his image But the only way to be a child of God is through Jesus who is the way the truth and the life and even this Has not one God created as is referring to God creating and establishing a people for himself It's a call for God's people to see his character and how he treats him And how they, how God loves them.

He is their father. He is a provider. He is a good father. He is the creator. He is the one who established them. The one that brings security. So God is saying through Malachi, listen, I'm the one who made all of this happen in the first place. I've done exactly what I said I would do. And this is not like God just established the people and then disappeared over and over again.

He is showing them that he's very much involved. He's not a distant dad. He is a loving, hands on father. You're running away from these people that I freed you from and you can't get to the other side? Here, let me part the waters and make the ground dry. And then you get to the other side and say, what has God ever done for us?

That's just one story out of so many. And God is here saying I have been a faithful father to you. I'm a faithful creator.

You don't realize, two questions, they're rhetorical in nature. So God's not if you listen to the question, have we not all one father? It's a statement of, it's a statement of fact here. That they should know who God is. I'm not convinced some of us realize how faithful God is to us. Do you,

do you mind if I recall how God has been faithful to you? Can we do that for a moment? I'm gonna need some of y'all to say yes. All right, okay. God's faithfulness to you is always the same. He is not more faithful to me than he is to you. I do not get some special faithfulness from God because I'm a pastor.

He is. The same. Faithfulness is always the same.

Meaning, that in the darkest seasons of your life, God, you cannot say God was not faithful. He was. Always the same. It also means you might do something sinful that you drastically regret. And God to his people is not saying you crossed the line. I'm done with you. He is faithful. We're going to build on that here in a little bit.



God's faithfulness to you is extensive, rich, and limitless. Look at Psalm 36. 5. Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens. Your faithfulness to the clouds. This past week I was in Atlanta all week. Up until Thursday. And I don't know if you've ever had to travel and fly on a commercial airline within 12 hours after a commercial airline crash.

But that changes your perspective a little bit. When you're on that airplane. And so I did not sleep on this plane. Atlanta, going from Jacksonville to Atlanta, you can't get anything done. You're, pfft, this, alright? So I sleep. I did not sleep on this flight. Alright? A little okay, there's a possibility out there that I don't get off this plane.

In fact, the flight attendant even said, I bet y'all gonna pay attention to this instruction manual, or the instruction video now, aren't ya? Which I was like, ooh, okay, I don't know if I would have gone that far, but here we are. And I just got out my iPad. And just was reading through my sermon. And I think of Psalm 36 5 as we're above the clouds.

And what I thought was, Is God faithful up here above the clouds? Because according to Psalm 36 5, does it stop at the clouds? So I started thinking through this, okay? You see where I'm going with it? I'm like, God, are you faithful up here? I got questions. Now that I'm on an airline that I know may, it's dicey.

And of course this verse is not saying that. It's showing us how extensive God's faithfulness is. For the, David to write this, the idea of being above the clouds is impossible, right? Impossible. He'd be blown away that I was writing, reading this verse above the clouds. He would, can you imagine? But God is, it's showing just God's faithfulness never runs out.

It's massive, it's extensive, it's rich, it's limitless. In other words, there's no where You can ever run away and find a spot where God is not faithful. God's faithfulness to you is revealed in his new morning mercies. Limitations 3, 22 through 24. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul. Therefore, I will hope in him. Every morning we wake up, God's mercy is new and waiting for us. Evidence that He is always faithful. If you wake up one morning, and there's no new mercies available, what that means, by implication of this verse, is that God is no longer faithful.

If He said He will do something and He does not do it, then He is not faithful. Do you see how critical of a piece of believing that God is faithful is to our hope in Him? If



we believe that God could break a promise or fall short, then God is no longer faithful.

And it's a good thing that God is faithful because we are not always faithful to him.

In Malachi chapter 2, God is calling out their faithlessness. He's made it clear to be faithful to him is to remain faithful to the covenant that he established to him. And so in a little bit of a summary here, what was taking place is God had said in his law, if you are my people, you do not marry outside of my people.

You do not marry into families who worship foreign gods. Just a caveat, some people take this verse and make it about race and it has nothing to do with it. It is about a relationship with the Lord. You do not marry people who do not have a relationship with the Lord. And yet the people of Israel and Judah had gotten married to someone inside the family of God and the men were divorcing them to go and marry the wives of a, of foreign gods.

This is a big deal. They are saying we would rather have the gods, little g gods, of this people group than the god of my people group. And they were divorcing them, meaning they were accepting of that culture's, that people group's, worship of that one little g god. Complete rejection on behalf of God's people towards him.

It is the equivalence, or very close to, the denouncing of one's citizenship and then joining in with terrorists. We would be appalled by that, right? The people of Israel, people of God's people, were saying, God, I don't want to be a part of your people. I'm going to step out of this and marry into a people that I like a little better.

And they're worshipping God who doesn't even exist. He's a false God.

There's a reason God is very upset with them. Because as we see, all those other little g gods always fall short to the one true God. We see it played out throughout scripture. We see it in our own lives. And I think if we're not careful, we can say, how could the people of Israel do this? They had the God who parts the waters, the God that kills giants, the God who gives them the land.

But are we not guilty of doing this as well? Where we know and see the one true God but then give in to something that we think will be better for us?

There's two ways to act towards God. Faithless and faithful. We're going to look at faithless first. Faithlessness is to act treacherously or to betray. Think about the significance to say you have betrayed me. No one likes that, right? That you've stabbed me in the back. I thought we were friends and you betrayed me.



God is saying to his people you have acted in betrayal, in treacherous ways. Faithlessness, here's how you can remember that. Faith less, right? Faithlessness is living out of a lack of faith in God. It is the people of Israel saying, I don't know if our God can do what this God can do. So I'm going to go over here to try this little G God out and fill it out a little bit and see if this little God's better.

It's living out of a lack of faith in God. I'm going to do my own thing because I'm not really sure if God will actually fix this for me. I'm going to try my own good works in my own power because I'm not sure if God's got the power to help me overcome this sin. I'm going to try this in my own way.

Here's how we are faithless. When our heart, we are faithless when we, our hearts desire something more than God. This is essentially what idolatry is. Now, we think of idolatry and think of idol, we think of something related to Indiana Jones. And it's golden, and we bow down to it, but this is not our culture.

We would, you, we would never be caught doing that. But idolatry, in what it's understood throughout scripture, and even how God has laid it out, Idolatry, this is a quote from John Piper, is treasuring something more than God. It's treasuring something more than God. You got some things in your life that you've ever treasured more than God?

Probably wasn't a golden idol you were bound down to, right? You could talk about some good things too. Family, friends, where you've placed them if I do not have this thing, this person, my life is in shambles.

It could be a sport, it could be a hobby. The people of Israel, or people of Judah here in Malachi chapter 2 they profaned God's temple. They turned it into a place of filth. For them, it was bringing unclings into the temple. Or being unclean themselves and not doing things according the way that God had laid out, as we saw last week.

For us, it's having an unclean heart before God. 1 Corinthians 3, 16 17 says, Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him, for God's temple is holy. You are that temple. God dwells within us. So to have a heart that is living in treacherous Sinful acts is defaning, defrauding the temple of God.

It's a heart that's not set on Him that's set on something else. I gotta have that money or I don't know how we're gonna make it through next week. I mean it could be little big things. I gotta have this house. Gotta have this vacation. If I don't have this, I don't, my life's not complete. It could be big things.



That's usually where we go. And here's what the reality is. It could also be small things too. If I don't have my cup of coffee, then I'm, heads are gonna explode. We've all said this, or most of us have. I said it Tuesday, I think, but here's what we're saying. My heart posture is attached to if I have this cup of coffee.

This is a form of idolatry, is it not? Should I not say my heart postures directly attached to how I view the Lord? There are places in this world that they don't have coffee. They don't drink coffee. So no Christian saying, if I don't have coffee today, my heads are gonna explode. Because our attitude, our heart posture is not dependent, cannot be dependent on if we have something other than God.

God is the one who created coffee. Praise the Lord for that, right? I mean in his grace he said I'm gonna create the greatest gift to mankind in the coffee bean.

I don't know if he created Starbucks but that's a whole different conversation. Do you see where I'm going with this? We easily turn to something that's fraudulent. And making it everything that is, we believe, God to be as faithful. Let me give an example of this. Over Christmas, Merritt had asked, she's not here today, she's not feeling well.

And so I saw this on the way out the door. She had asked for a Stanley Cup. She was like, I want one. Everybody's got one now. Most everybody. Or something similar. So we're like, sure, we'll get you a Stanley Cup. So Julie ordered one, got it in, and she got it out of the box, and was like, this doesn't feel right.

I'm looking at it, and I'm like, it looks like a Stanley cup. I don't know. She's looking at it, she's the weight's off. She hands it to me, and I'm like, the weight's off. I don't know. It feels fake. And it literally says Stanley on the side. I'm like, babe, I don't know how you know.

So she flips it over, and on the bottom, there's some instructions, and the instructions were misspelled. So I'm like, okay now you're on to something. We have gotten a fake Stanley. That we paid full price, Stanley, full price on. Now that's, you've been there, right? Where you've gotten the fake, and you're like, They're trying to, someone's trying to scam me, Walmart.

Now, how ridiculous would it be for Julie to notice this, and see it's misspelling, the color is off the etching on the side is wrong, it's weight's different, like there's clear, obvious signs that this is not the real thing. How would, ridiculous would it be for Julie to say, You know what? We'll just keep it what Julie would have done in that moment is to say this fraudulent thing Even though I know it's not true.



No. No, it's not the real thing. I have now saying it's okay I've now elevated into the equivalence of it being the real thing. This is what we do with idolatry We recognize that is something is not good. It's not true. It's the wrong thing and yet we say, you know what? I'll keep it and we then think we can elevate it into the value and worth of God It doesn't matter what we say it is.

It is always falling short of God and His holy character. So what do we do when we realize that we're living in idolatry, and we recognize that this is not the real thing, that we want the one true God, and God's calling us to see and behold Him? What are we to do? Like what Julie did with that Stanley.

We return it. And we go after the one that's the real thing. This is what repentance is. It's not only recognizing that what I have is not the real thing. It is not God. I'm worshipping and treasuring something more than God. And saying, not only recognizing it, but saying, I don't want this. I'm getting rid of it.

I want the real thing. And then pursuing to go and get the real thing.

People of chapter 2 were not repentant. We are faithless when our hearts remain unrepentant. In verse 13 and 14, God says, and the second thing you do, you cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because He no longer regards the offering or acceptance with favor from your hands. But you say, why does He not?

Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. In other words, they were recognizing this is wrong, we shouldn't do this, but they weren't changing their ways. They weren't returning to the one who is truly value and greater and treasurable over all things.

Repentance is a change of mind that now sees God as true, beautiful, and worthy of all of our praise and obedience and pursuing after Him. Here's what we often do. We recognize that there is something wrong, right? Oh, man, it's wrong. I'm sorry, God. I shouldn't have done that. I'm just going to put it in my cabinet.

Maybe nobody will notice it's a fake. But I'm sorry I did it. Having a sorry attitude and crying and weeping does not mean our hearts are repentant. It's what God is telling you. You're still doing what you shouldn't be doing. It is a complete rejection of anything that goes against God. And turning to Him and desiring the one true God above all things.



And so it's one thing to feel sorry for doing something. It's completely different to repent and turn to what is correct.

Vague, bad feeling that you are a crummy person is not the same as conviction from the Holy Spirit for your sin against the Holy God. Feeling rotten is not the same as repentance. And do we not recognize as adults, between other adults and kids, when it's a fake apology? Man, a fake apology is worse than what, whatever you did in the first place, oftentimes.

I could look someone right in the eye and I'm like it's fake. I think we can see this. Who thinks we can hide this from an almighty, all holy God who sees everything? He even tells them, you come crying and weeping. Why don't you accept this, God? Why are you rejecting us? Because God says, I see your heart.

There is no change. You're continuing to do and abandon the wife of your youth. You're not returning to me. I

think if we often take a look at our own hearts, I think there's a lot of idols that we need to just, not just return, but put in the trash to never be seen again. I've got them. The first three years of this church was my idol. I treasured it more than anything else. My identity was in how great and successful this church was.

It was not in Jesus. Listen, I'm going to leave here today with a different posture than I had the week two. There's a lot of people that are sick right now. We got some people out of town. There's some empty chairs right in front of me. And you know what? I'm thankful for the Lord and His grace that says every time we get to gather together, whether it's five people or, I had the idea of 5, 000 is way too much, so let's keep it, less than that, and preach God's Word and hug on one another and encourage one another.

It's a good day. This. It's God's way of seeing and working in us, drawing us to himself. We're always taking a look at our heart and saying, I don't want this in my heart. I don't want to live in lust. I don't want to live in pride. I want to live in greed. I want to get rid of it. I'll tell you the best thing for me during COVID was the fact that they canceled the baseball season for half the year.

Initially, that was my response. I didn't realize that I found a lot of rest in just watching baseball. When Hebrews reminds me, I can find all my rest in Jesus. And now, baseball season's about to start. And I'm going to get to sit there and enjoy these games as a good gift of God's creation because the Lord reminded me that's a false treasure that you have here.



I could keep going. We could talk about TV shows, we could talk about books, we could talk about cars, we could talk about your gardening, we could talk about the hobby, we could keep going, right? And the good news of the Lord is that He's constantly and graciously shining His gospel hope in our hearts saying, Listen, there's so much more you can treasure in me than just all the things that I've created.

So what happens when we repent and realize this idol is faithless and worthless? What happens when we repent, repent? 1 John 1, 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He is faithful and just to forgive us. Which tells me, as we see in Malachi chapter 2 and all through the book, God is faithfully making us faithful to Him.

Verses 15 and 16 Did he not make them one with a portion of the spirit in their union? Did he not bring the husband and wife together, give them the spirit of union? What was the one God was seeking? Godly offsprings. So guard yourselves in your spirit and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence. Says the Lord of hosts, so guard yourselves in your spirit and do not be faithless. There's a lot of great application from this text about marriage. And we're going to look at that in marriage in a couple weeks, okay?

But here is the reality of this text when you go all the way to the bottom. If the people of God were faithful to God, they would have been faithful to their wives in marriage. The issue is their faithfulness to God. God said, did I not bring you together? Did I not make this happen? We even see in the book of Hosea.

This illustration of marriage as a illustration between the faithfulness of God towards unfaithful people. That if a true marriage that loves God and loves Lord, it will remain faithful to one another. It's a picture of the gospel. Ephesians five tells us this. It's a picture of Jesus uniting us together.

That's his bride.

So faithlessness is acting, is living out of a lack of faith in God. Then faithfulness is living out of a full faith in God. I hope that helps you see the difference here. When I am faithless, it's a lack of faith in God. All about God's character. When I am living faithful, it is full faith in God. God, in the midst of this, blank,



you are faithful. Always true, always good, always holy. How does God accomplish this in us? Quickly here. One, the Bible tells us that Jesus is faithful to save us. 1 Thessalonians 5:24 He who calls you is faithful. He will surely do it. This is the calling of salvation to lost people. He will surely do it.

If you're here today, and you recognize you are a sinner, living in faithlessness towards God, and you recognize that God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for you, to conquer death through His resurrection, Scripture says if you believe in Him, He is faithful to save you. He will surely do it. This is where all of our faithfulness towards God hinges on.

If God is not faithful and able to save us, then my belief is He's not a God worth following. If He can't uphold the most important promise He has made, that He will save sinners through His Son Jesus Christ, then what makes me think He will uphold anything else? But He has always upheld this one. He has always saved sinners who come to Him by faith and repentance and belief that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

He is faithful to save us. While Judah in Malachi chapter 2 abandoned his bride, Jesus did not. Jesus pursued after her. He pursued after us to save us. Ephesians 5:25 through 27 comments on this. He went after his bride, even when his bride abandoned him. So when we hear that Jesus is the Lion of Judah throughout scripture, it means that Jesus acts in a way that this Judah did not act.

He did what these people should have done. But Jesus did it perfectly and sinlessly. He did not abandon his bride. He gave his life for her, for us. Jesus is faithful to forgive. 1 John 1:9, we've read that already. Man, I know, we're all dealing with sin in our lives. And there are times where, Lord, I come to you and I gotta need to repent of this.

I think oftentimes we feel guilty about repenting, but God longs for us to repent. It's a beautiful thing. God, forgive me for this. In the car on the way to church this morning, Colton and I stayed up a little too late last night, alright? And I got in the car and I was like, Colton, we didn't make, we didn't make good decisions last night.

We weren't, we were having a good time, but I knew last night we should have gone, go to bed. And I just, and so we sought the Lord for forgiveness. We knew what we should have done and we didn't do it.

Repentance is a beautiful thing, because God is faithful to forgive. His mercies are new. Now it's not coming and just saying, sorry God, I messed up. But now I know next Saturday, this coming Saturday, there will be a different posture in our house.



Because we don't want to be tired. We want to enjoy God's good creation, but not at the expense of being tired on a Sunday morning.

Because this is what the Lord has led our family to do, alright? If you like staying up late on Saturday and you could be here, that might not be a thing for you. For us it, it was a big deal. But there's some things in our life where we are living in sin. Sin that maybe some people can see, some that can't.

God is faithful to give, forgive. Jesus is faithful to guard us. 2 Thessalonians 3. 3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. He is faithful to guard you. And here in this text, He encourages the people. Guard your hearts against faithlessness. Guard your heart.

Don't give in to this. Guard it. Protect it. Fight against it. But here is what God's people then Didn't realize, but we do now. God is ultimately the one that holds us in his hands. While we fight and pursue and guard against faithlessness towards God, it is God who is helping us along the way. Jesus is faithful to guard and keep us.

Jesus is faithful to produce faithfulness in us. In that text, in verse 15, what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. What God is saying, listen, this is why when you live in a covenant relationship, With God's people, you produce people that belong to God. This is for the Jewish people, okay?

When you go over and marry the wife of a foreign God, those kids have no relationship with God. So God is saying this faithfulness that you have produces faithfulness. This is God's design, God's goal, God's desire that his people will be faithful to him as he has been faithful to them and they will produce Faithful and godly offspring.

There is a fruit of faithfulness.

In fact, in the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5, 22 24, but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, what's the next one? Faithfulness. Gentleness, self control. Against things, against such there is no law. In other words, our faithfulness to the Lord is a fruit of His faithfulness in us.

That God is doing this work to make us faithful, because we cannot make ourselves faithful on our own. We need His grace and His mercy and His love towards us, because our God is always faithful. When Something I had the thought of a couple weeks ago when we were out of town. Julie and I were walking, and I, it's just one of those thoughts that the Holy Spirit just puts on your heart, just brings comfort.



When we got out, it was cold. It was like zero degrees. We're bundled up, and we went snow tubing. And it's eight degrees and we were snow tubing and realized, man, it's hot. Like I got too much stuff on. And so I was in, I eventually just, I was just in my hoodie. What I would wear here. And like I was hot and I'm like, it doesn't make sense.

It's eight degrees outside. This something's gone in my mind, but I realized as we're just walking that just the sun, it was bright, warm. You feel the sun on you. And I just had the thought like, man, the same sun that warms the people here is warming the people in Florida. And everywhere I go. And I wake up, can I tell you what I know is probably going to be in the sky somewhere?

It's the sun. It's not a different sun in New Hampshire as it is here, right? It's the same sun. In fact, when the sun sets, and it's dark out, and you see the moon and the stars, even if there's cloud cover during the day, the sun's still there, right? At night, when there's stars and moons, and you don't see the sun, does that mean the sun disappeared?

It's still doing what God created it to do. And I thought, did God create the sun to remind us that he is more faithful than the sun? That even in the midst of clouds and darkness, we never question if the sun is going to show back up, do we? But why is it in the midst of grief and pain and cloud and darkness do we wonder, is God going to come back?

Is God going to be here tomorrow morning?

More sure than the rising sun is the faithfulness of our God. You want to know why I know this? Because one day we don't even need the sun anymore. The light of the glory of God will shine bright.

So here's what my prayer is for the next ten years. And we'll talk more about this. This is part one, remember? This is the introduction for next week.

Church, let's be a church that beholds how faithful our God is. And says no matter what, prison? Doesn't matter. Persecution? Doesn't matter. Death? Blessing? No matter what. We are going to be faithful to the God who has always been faithful to us. And live in obedience to what He's called us to do.

Because he who is faithful will surely do it and more sure than the sun. Our God is always faithful to his word.

