



# **The faithful servant of the Lord God**

**Prepared and presented by  
Abraham Sackey  
03 January 2021**

# Why this subject? ~ 1



- The passage of time, so called “new light and scholarship” have eroded the original call of God.
- In short, mind-sets have changed and mind-sets will need to be realigned if we are to remain in Christ.
- The mind-set of the leader and those who are led must be realigned to the call and purposes of God.
- Between those who lead and those who are lead there needs to be what is called “consensus ad idem” – the meeting of minds.
- Without the meeting of minds there will be misunderstandings and frustrations which in turn may lead to a falling out; something that should be avoided like the plague.



# Why this subject? ~ 2



- **Leaders must remind themselves of who has called them and why? Leaders should be servants of God.**
- **Before I proceed, I must make reference to the title I have given to this message.**
- **I have used the term “the servant of God” instead of the minister. When one uses the term minister, some of us will exclude ourselves straight away.**
- **Therefore I have chosen the term “servant”**
- **But even this may be a problem for some people.**
- **Servant? Who? Me? I am master of all I survey.**
- **Yet Moses was often referred to as the “servant of God.”**



# My objectives



- I wish to sound the alarm for all of us to wake up.
- Yes, all of us. This is because all true Christian must see themselves as servants of God.
- I aim to take advantage of whatever silver lining there is in COVID-19.
- The current pandemic has offered us time to slow down, re-evaluate, take stock, think and best of all take remedial or appropriate corrective measures.
- This is a call for us to be faithful to the One who has called us, to be faithful to ourselves, faithful to the message and the modalities thereof and to be faithful to those to whom we have been called. Faithful in every way.



# What I wish to do



- I wish to share with you aspects of faithfulness to God.
- Perhaps you will hear aspects of faithfulness that are not easily considered and yet are so fundamental.
- The need to warn of the dangers of our conduct.
- The need to confront if one is to remain faithful to ones call – Consider Hugh Latimer and Henry VIII
- Faithfulness and the need to ask authoritatively
- Faithfulness and the need to be fresh
- Faithfulness and the need to be a skilful and a person of integrity.



# Elements of faithfulness ~ 1



- The word **faithfulness** comes with many connotations.
- The world has an understanding and it scares some.
- A spouse may expect faithfulness from the other half but will be scared of offering faithfulness.
- World leaders promise to be faithful when they take their oath of office.
- We are talking of faithfulness to God.
- **Hebrews 3:5**  
And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward.



# Elements of faithfulness ~ 2



- In my understanding, the word faithfulness comes with the connotations of opposition.
- It is by way of threats or temptations
- Something or someone else competes for your attention or your resources. Ever heard of what is called “opportunity cost”?
- This is what God said to Joshua:
- "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. (Joshua 1:7)
- This was another way of saying be faithful.



# The faithful servant must questions



The faithful servant of the Lord God

- **The faithful servant must ask question of those he or she serves.**
- **After all His Master, the Lord God does ask questions.**
- **Where are you Adam, who told you that you were naked?**
- **What have you done Cain etc.**
- **What are you doing and who are you doing it for?**
- **Have you killed and are now going to take possession? Elijah to Ahab.**





# The spur of the faithful servant



- Any servant of God must desire to hear these words:
- Matthew 25:21 English Standard Version  
His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'
- Colossians 1:10  
that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- 2 Corinthians 5:9  
So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.



# The cost of faithfulness



- It is very important that we should understand that faithfulness may come with a heavy prices.
- Faithfulness to God will mean opposition to someone else – the Devil or the world.
- Read Hebrews 11 and you will understand.
- Speak to Jeremiah and the other prophets
- Speak to Naboth in the matter of his vineyard
- Speak to John the Baptist
- Speak to Stephen
- Speak to Hugh Latimer
- But there is a better resurrection awaiting. Alleluyah



# The rebellion of Korah ~ 1



- **Numbers 16:1 - 3**

**1 ¶ Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men;**

**2 and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown.**

**3 They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"**



# The rebellion of Korah ~ 2



- **Numbers 16:8 - 14**

**8 Then Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi:**

**9 "Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them;**

**10 "and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also?**

- **11 "Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD. And what is Aaron that you complain against him?"**



# The rebellion of Korah ~ 3



- **Numbers 16:8 - 14**

**12 ¶ And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said, "We will not come up!**

**13 "Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you should keep acting like a prince over us?**

**14 "Moreover you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!"**



# The rebellion of Korah ~ 4



- **We are talking of the faithful servant of the Lord in the year 2021.**
- **Modern day church leaders, phycologists, therapists and so called experts would have handled the rebellion of Korah very differently.**
  - 1. Such will call for dialogue.**
  - 2. A fact finding committee will be formed to see if they have a point.**
  - 3. Some will call for compromise because of peace.**
  - 4. Some will call on Moses to apologise to them.**
  - 5. Most probably Moses and Aaron will be placed on suspension pending investigations.**



# Faithfulness and authority ~ 1



- **Whenever you find an Old Testament narrative mentioned in the new Testament you must sit up and take note. There is always a metanarrative.**
- **For our purposes a metanarrative is an overarching account or interpretation of events and circumstances that provides a pattern or structure for people's beliefs and gives meaning to their experiences. "traditional religions provide stories that deliver a metanarrative about how we should live our lives"**
- 



# Faithfulness and authority ~ 2



- **Jude 1:11 English Standard Version**  
**Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.**
- **There comes a time when the servant of God must exercise authority in order to remain faithful.**





# Faithfulness and authority ~ 3



- **Titus 2:15, 3:1 - 2**

**15 ¶ Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.**

**1 ¶ Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,**

**2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.**



# Faithfulness and freshness ~ 1



- **Matthew 13:52 English Standard Version**

And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

- Training determines what is at ones disposal to dispense.
- Treasures: Well resourced
- Old treasures and new treasures.
- Old does not mean archaic. It means what is already there.
- 



# Faithfulness and freshness ~ 2



- **Isaiah 50:4**

**The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.**

- **Freshness comes through fellowship with the Lord.**
- **It comes by being in His presence. This is what I call “checking in with head office”**



# Have you ever read this?



- **Luke 6:45 (ESV)**

**The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

- **The heart**
- **Good treasure**
- **Evil treasure**
- **The mouth – tongue – speaks what is in the heart.**



# The appeal and statement of Paul



- **1 Corinthians 4:1**

**1 ¶ This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.**

**2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.**

**3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.**

**Do you hear the heart of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians? He was making an appeal and also stating the position from which he ministers.**



# Faithfulness and perspectives



- **What do you think of those who lead you?**
- **What do you think are the requirements of your stewardship or call to serve?**
- **Actually what one thinks of the servants of God is expressed in what one thinks of God; the One who has appointed them.**
- **Just sit up and reflect on what you have just heard.**
- **There is no getting away from that statement.**
- **Simple and yet so profound.**



# Simple and yet so profound



The faithful servant of the Lord God



**What one thinks of  
the servants of God  
is expressed in what  
one thinks of God;  
the One who  
appoints His  
servants.**

# Simple and yet so profound



The faithful servant of the Lord God



**What the servant  
of God thinks of  
God affects the  
attitude he or  
she brings to the  
ministry.**





# Faithfulness; heart and hands



- **Psalm 78:72**

**72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.**

- **Faithfulness is a matter of the heart and the hands.**
- **To desire to do something and not having the ability to do it is impotence which leads to frustration. This is why skillfulness of hands is required.**
- **To be sinful without integrity makes one a very dangerous person to have around. You have a manipulator when there is skillfulness without integrity. That is the domain of the spin doctor. Such should be avoided.**



# True Christian integrity



- True integrity is never compartmentalised but flows across the whole spectrum of one's life. It must be evident in one's life as man or woman, spouse, parent, friend, secular profession, finances, ministry, relationships etc.
- True integrity is a lifestyle of choice flowing out of devotion to one's God and Maker.
- To have different standards in each department of one's life will qualify that person to be called a hypocrite.
- Situational ethics and integrity of heart are total strangers to each other.



# Skillfulness of hands



- This means having the tools and having the necessary ability to use the tools safely.
- It is knowing what tools to use for which job.
- Skillfulness of hands must always go in conjunction with integrity of heart otherwise one will become very dangerous to the flock and to himself.
- Skillfulness of hands should never be seen as:
  - How to get away with something
  - Cutting corners
  - Having one's own way
- It should be seen as getting the maximum result whilst operating within the given parameters.



# Conclusion



- **A change in mind-set is required of the servant leader and those he or she leads.**
- **The Lord is looking for a people who will make a difference in this very wicked and adulterous world.**
- **The church needs a shaking up; a radical shaking up.**
- **What has happened to godly boldness and faithfulness?**
- **Who will challenge the lies that come both from within and without?**
- **"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." (Revelations 17:14)**

