

# CAN YOU BE COUNTED ON?

## Fruitful Living – Part 7

### May 19, 2013

Let faithfulness set the COURSE for your future.

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, FAITHFULNESS,<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control.”*

**Proverbs 20:6 (GNT)** *“Everyone talks about how loyal and faithful he (or she) is, but just try to find someone who really is!”*

**Luke 19:9-10 (NLT)** *“Jesus responded, ‘Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.’<sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.’ ”*

#### FIVE PRINCIPLES OF FAITHFULNESS

##### 1. You can't ARRIVE without taking the trip.

**Luke 19:12-14 (NLT)** *“He (Jesus) said, ‘A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return.’<sup>13</sup> Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, ‘Invest this for me while I am gone.’<sup>14</sup> But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We do not want him to be our king.’ ”*

##### 2. Be RESPONSIBLE for what you've been given.

**Luke 19:15 (NLT)** *“After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were.”*

**1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)** *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”*

##### 3. Faithfulness with little leads to TRUST with more.

**Luke 19:16-19 (NLT)** *“The first servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!’<sup>17</sup> ‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’<sup>18</sup> The next servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.’<sup>19</sup> ‘Well done!’ the king said. ‘You will be governor over five cities.’ ”*

##### 4. ACCOUNTABILITY confirms your faithfulness.

**Luke 19:20-23 (NLT)** *“But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe.’<sup>21</sup> I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn't yours and harvesting crops you didn't plant.’<sup>22</sup> ‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I'm a hard man who takes what isn't mine and harvests crops I didn't plant,<sup>23</sup> why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’ ”*

**Matthew 12:36 (NCV)** *“And I tell you that on the Judgment Day people will be responsible for every careless thing they have said.”*

##### 5. USE what you've been given or LOSE it.

**Luke 19:24-27 (NLT)** *“Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’<sup>25</sup> ‘But, master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten pounds!’<sup>26</sup> ‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.’<sup>27</sup> And as for these enemies of mine who didn't want me to be their king—bring them in and execute them right here in front of me.’ ”*

**Romans 10:9 (NLT)** *“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*