



Day 4

Faithfulness

Silence (2 minutes) Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

Scripture *“Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.”* Colossians 4:7-9

Discussion Tychicus is briefly mentioned in five of Paul’s letters and in the book of Acts. The name Onesimus is in Colossians and in Philemon, and may be the same person. Paul praises them both as faithful and dear brothers. They serve Paul and follow his directives. Here they are charged with informing the Colossians what is happening with Paul and encouraging them. Tychicus was sent to Ephesus for the same reasons. He was also traveling with Paul and others from Greece to Syria. If the Onesimus here is the same person as in the book of Philemon, he assisted Paul while he was in prison and had been given directives to return to his former master with Paul’s letter, in an effort to make amends for running away. Paul describes Onesimus there as “my very heart.” We all have different roles and responsibilities in the Body of Christ. However, it is striking the amount of time, effort, trust, and closeness are described here. Whether we are hired by a church or are volunteers this is not merely a job or a pastime. This is the Church of the living God. This is the Church Jesus died for. May we too be so serious about how we are serving God and each other in strengthening the Church, that we are described as faithful and dear brothers or sisters.

Application How are you currently faithfully serving the body of Christ? Are there any Christians you know of who you are uniquely suited to serve with your time or gifts? Think of one practical way you can serve those you think of and do it today!

Prayer Lord God, thank You for the examples of Tychicus and Onesimus. Please work in me so that I grow in fostering unity in the Body through encouraging others and speaking the truth in love. Please change me so that I more frequently take the initiative to build positive relationships in the Church. Please strengthen me so that I can serve You longer and complete the tasks You have for me. When You present difficult or humbling tasks for me to do, may I mature in obeying You right away with a positive attitude that it is a privilege to serve You. Jesus, please change me to be more like You. Amen.

Silence (2 minutes) Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

Scripture memory for the week:

*“Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope.
Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed,
for His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”*

Lamentations 3:21-23

