

“The Faithful”

Are you one of the faithful?

Luke 23:50-24:10

The Faithful are: Worthy, Working, Witnessing

I. Worthy - “good and just man” (vs. 50-52)

It is what others see in our:

A. Deeds – “good man”

- *A do gooder*
- *Member of Sanhedrin*

B. Discernment – “just man ”

- *Wise in decision making*
- *Established and emphasized by the fact he voted against crucifying Jesus*

C. Devotion – “waited for the kingdom”

- *He was more into spiritual gain than material gain*
- *His desire and commitment was to God’s overall plan not his temporary desires*

II. Working - “took it down, wrapped it, laid it” (vs. 52-24:8)

Faithful workers are:

A. Compelled – “unto Pilate and begged”

Begged = stressed his craving or desire more than his humility and behavior

B. Conscientious – “wrapped it in linen”

in a sepulcher... wherein never man was laid

- *Wrapped = wrapped tightly or well wrapped*
- *The sepulcher was a good one and not just a useless one that was old and over used – speaks of his desire to give something of value not something.*

C. Chronological - “prepared...rested the Sabbath day, the first day of the week, very early in the morning...”

- *Jesus died on the day of preparation = the day the Passover lamb should be killed. The lamb without blemish that was separated for the shedding of its blood.*
- *The Sabbath day was only a couple of hours and maybe minutes away – still Joseph went through the trouble to get Jesus’ body and properly prepare Him for burial. No doubt he had company coming and a full social calendar.*

- *Joseph respected the Sabbath so that others would not look down on the Lord even though many Jews and Jewish custom allowed the Sabbath to be broken for burials.*
- *God who is eternal and not bound by time, used Joseph and his respect for time to give us the wonderful Easter story.*

D. Coordinated – “the women also, ...with him”

- *Even though there was not much time, Joseph included others in his ministry.*
- *He did not say this is my ministry and I have done all this work to get the body here.*
- *It is great to have so many of the reports of the resurrection because so many were included.*

III. Witnessing - “*beholding the things*” (vs. 9-10)

Faithful witnesses are sure to:

A. Remember – “remembered His words”

- *Referring to John 2:22 – when Jesus told of them destroying the temple and in three days He would raise it up.*
- *We need to remember the Scriptures in which God has made things clear to us. Perhaps you should write out your testimony so you don’t forget. Stick to the Scriptures that you can remember and that God has helped you understand.*

B. Reporting – “told all these things”

- *They simply told what they heard, saw, and experienced.*
- *We should be careful to stay in the realm of what we have lived and how God has help us. Be sure not to embellish or sensationalize, just tell them all the things that Jesus has done for you and the difference He has made in your life.*

C. Relaxing – “believed them not”

- *I Corinthians 3 tells us that we are not the ones that make the believing happen. We simply deliver the good seed = the Word and we can water = more of the Word and testimony, but it is in God’s timing that the increase will come.*

Isaiah 55:10-11

Like the rain and the snow that waters the earth, God will use His Word when it is given out to accomplish His purpose.