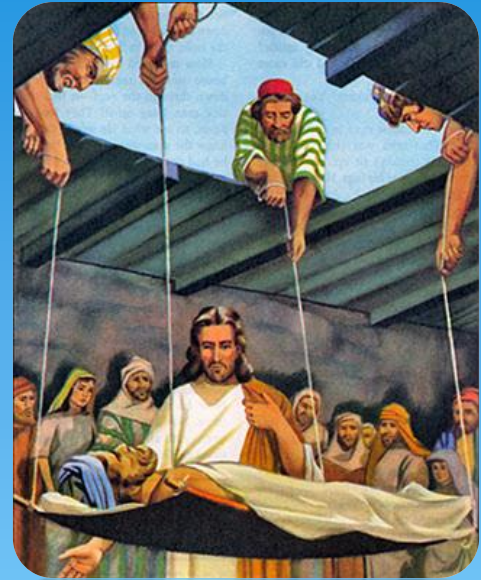


“When
Jesus saw
their faith”

Mark 2:5



1. Faithfulness towards “Others”

- * The four friends and their paralytic friend
- * Ruth towards her mother-in-law
- * Jonathan towards David



2. Faithfulness towards “Responsibilities” ⁽¹⁾

* **Samuel and his role:**

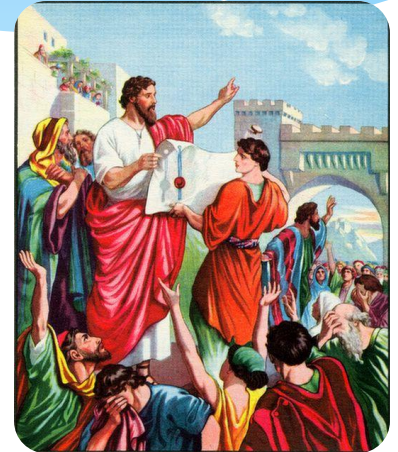
“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way” *1 Samuel 12:23*



2. Faithfulness towards “Responsibilities” (2)

* **Nehemiah and his challenges:**

- His comfort zone
- The low morale
- The enemies
- The magnitude of the work



2. Faithfulness towards “Responsibilities” (3)

* **Moses and his loss:**

“Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.” *Numbers 27: 16 -17*



3. Faithfulness towards “Principles” ⁽¹⁾

* **Principles are more important
than desires:**

- The Example of Joseph the
chaste



3. Faithfulness towards “Principles” (2)

* **Principles are more important
than lawful rights:**

- The Example of Uriah the
Hittite



3. Faithfulness towards “Principles” (3)

* **Principles are more important
than life:**

- The Example of the three
saintly youth



3. Faithfulness towards “Principles” (4)

- * **Honoring the principles of parents:**

- The Example of the obedient

Rechabites: “But they said, ‘We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, “You shall drink no wine, you nor your sons, forever””” *Jeremiah 35:6*



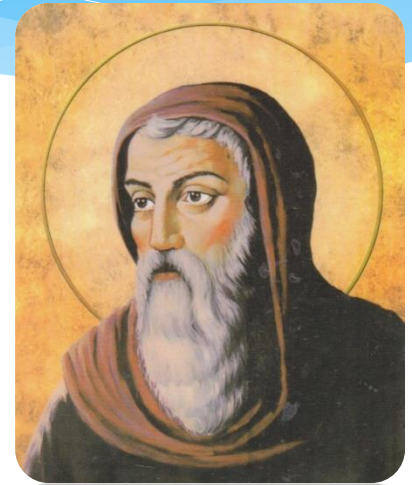
4. Faithfulness towards “Spiritual Commitment”

- * Daniel in Babylon: his food and his prayers
- * Hannah the mother of Samuel and her vow



5. Faithfulness towards “Biblical Truth”

- * “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” *Galatians 1:8*
- * St. Athanasius the Apostolic



**Why did the
faithful
disappear
from among
the sons of
men?**



1. Ideas but no convictions

- * Words spoken but not experienced
- * No willingness to endure or to pay a price for what is claimed as “belief”



2. Captivation by another master

- * Cain and his hurt ego
- * Samson and his weakness
- * Judas and his love of money



3. Yielding to outside pressure for acceptance
4. Quick frustration along the way
5. Linking faithfulness to a certain benefit or gain



6. Absence of the sense of belonging
7. Underestimating the “little mistakes”

