

Faithful in the Ordinary – Obedience When It Feels Small



Living with Purpose – Faith That Moves Beyond Belief (Week 4)

Introduction

We are continuing our series called **Living with Purpose – Faith That Moves Beyond Belief**. This series is about living out faith in everyday life. It is about obedience, witness, and endurance. It is not only about what we believe, it is also about how we live because of what we believe.

In Week 1, we learned we are saved by grace and created for good works. In Week 2, we talked about faith at home, work, and everywhere, including faith when no one is watching. In Week 3, we talked about being witnesses, with faith that speaks and shows, without pressure.

Now we come to Week 4. This message is for the moments that feel small. It is for the unseen, uncelebrated, ordinary places where most of life happens. This is where daily Christian living becomes real.

Here is our question today:

Do I trust God enough to obey Him consistently?

Scripture Reading

Jesus tells us in Luke 16:10:

Luke 16:10

(10) Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

This verse is short, but also very practical. Jesus connects the “little” things to the “much” things.

Many people want a strong faith. Many people want a meaningful purpose and to be used by God.

But many people also get discouraged because their life feels ordinary. Their obedience feels small and their faithfulness feels unnoticed.

Jesus speaks directly to that.

Today, we will walk through three teaching points: God Measures Faithfulness Differently Than We Do, Consistent Obedience Is a Trust Issue, and The “Very Little” Is Training for the “Much”.

God Measures Faithfulness Differently Than We Do

Luke 16:10 begins with a phrase we need to notice: “trusted with very little.”



We often think “very little” means “not important” and that small things do not matter. We think that the real spiritual life happens in big moments, public moments, or dramatic moments.

But Jesus does not agree with that.

Jesus teaches that small faithfulness reveals the heart.

God measures faithfulness differently than we do.

- We tend to measure faithfulness by visibility. We ask, “Did anyone notice?”
- We measure by scale. We ask, “Was it impressive?”
- We measure by results. We ask, “Did it succeed?”

But God often measures faithfulness by obedience.

God asks, “Did you do what I asked? Did you obey when it was quiet? Did you honor Me when no one was clapping? Did you stay faithful when it felt small?”

This matters because discouragement often comes when we do not see immediate results.

- You can pray for a long time and not see change
- You can serve faithfully and not hear thank you
- You can do the right thing at work and still feel overlooked
- You can love someone consistently and still feel unappreciated

In those moments, the enemy often whispers, “It does not matter.” But Jesus says it does matter.

Faithfulness in very little is not wasted. God sees it, God uses it, and God forms you through it.

Illustration and Life Application

Think about building a foundation for a house. When a foundation is poured, it is not exciting. People do not celebrate it. It is messy. It is slow. It is hidden once the house is built. But if the foundation is weak, everything else becomes unstable.

Small acts of obedience are like that foundation. They seem ordinary, but they support everything.

- Faithfulness in prayer is a foundation
- Faithfulness in integrity is a foundation
- Faithfulness in kindness is a foundation
- Faithfulness in Scripture is a foundation
- Faithfulness in serving is a foundation

Daily Christian living is not glamorous. But it stabilizes faith.

So if you feel discouraged, remember this: the goal is not to look impressive. The goal is to be faithful.

Sometimes obedience feels small because it is simple.

- Do not return harsh words
- Tell the truth



- Forgive again
- Show patience
- Keep your word
- Serve quietly
- Pray when you feel tired
- Open the Bible when you do not feel motivated

Those are not small to God.

Reflection Moment

Ask yourself:

Where have I believed that small obedience does not matter?

Where do I need to trust that God sees the little things?

Consistent Obedience Is a Trust Issue

Our core question today is not only about behavior. It is about trust.

Do I trust God enough to obey Him consistently?

Many people obey when it feels rewarding. Many people obey when it feels seen and when it feels easy. But consistent obedience means obeying when it is inconvenient, when it is private, and when it costs something.

That is why obedience is a trust issue.

- When God says, “Forgive,” obedience says, “I trust You to heal my heart.”
- When God says, “Be generous,” obedience says, “I trust You to provide.”
- When God says, “Speak truth,” obedience says, “I trust You with the consequences.”
- When God says, “Walk away from sin,” obedience says, “I trust You more than the moment.”
- When God says, “Serve,” obedience says, “I trust that humility is the way of Jesus.”

Obedience is not earning love. Obedience is responding to love.

In this series, we have said it clearly. We are saved by grace. We belong to Jesus. We are God’s workmanship. We are called to walk in good works.

So obedience is not an attempt to be accepted. Obedience is what we do because we are accepted.

Illustration and Life Application

Think about learning to drive with a trusted instructor. At first, you do not know what you are doing. You might feel nervous. You might want to grab the wheel and control everything.

But trust grows when you follow instruction consistently. You learn that the guidance is for your good. You learn that obeying the rules keeps you safe. You learn that what feels restrictive is actually protective.

God’s commands are not meant to crush you. God’s commands are meant to form you and protect you. They are meant to shape you into the likeness of Christ.



So when obedience feels small or hard, it often reveals what you believe about God.

- Do you believe God is wise?
- Do you believe God is good?
- Do you believe God can be trusted?
- Do you believe God sees you?
- Do you believe God rewards faithfulness in His time?

This is why Luke 16:10 matters. The little moments reveal trust.

Mid-Teaching Question:

In the comments or group, answer this question:

What is one “small” act of obedience you want to practice this week?

It can be a habit, a conversation, a choice, or an attitude. Keep it simple.

Reflection Moment

Ask yourself:

Where am I obeying only when it feels easy or rewarding?

Where is God calling me to obey consistently because I trust Him?

The “Very Little” Is Training for the “Much”

Jesus says, **“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much”**

This does not mean that if you do enough small things, God will owe you something bigger. This is not a business transaction or a deal with God. This is spiritual formation.

Small faithfulness trains the heart. Daily Christian living shapes who you are becoming.

- The way you speak when tired shapes your heart.
- The choices you make when tempted shape your character.
- The way you handle money shapes your priorities.
- The way you treat people who cannot repay you shapes your humility.
- The way you respond to conflict shapes your peace.

These moments are not random. They are training.

Illustration and Life Application

Think about physical training. A person who wants strength does not lift a heavy weight one time and become strong. Strength comes from consistent training. It comes from repetition. It comes from small decisions that do not look impressive.

The same is true spiritually.

A believer does not become steady through one emotional moment. A believer becomes steady through many small acts of obedience.

That is why discouragement is dangerous. Discouragement tells you to stop training. Discouragement tells you the little things are pointless. But Jesus tells you the little things are forming you.



When you are faithful in the little, you become the kind of person who can be faithful in the much. You become stable and trustworthy. You become ready for whatever God places in your life.

Sometimes the “much” is responsibility, suffering, leadership, influence, or endurance.

Whatever the “much” is, it requires a steady heart. A steady heart is built in the ordinary. So do not despise the small. God uses the ordinary to build the extraordinary.

The world celebrates big moments. God forms people through small moments of faithfulness.

Reflection Moment

Ask yourself:

What “very little” moment has God put in front of me again and again?

Is it patience? Is it prayer? Is it purity? Is it truthfulness? Is it forgiveness?

Ask the Lord for strength to be faithful.

This Week

Here are four simple steps for this week.

- 1. Choose one “very little” area.**
Pick one area where you often feel unseen: home, work, private life, or your attitudes. Identify it.
- 2. Choose one act of obedience and schedule it.**
Make it specific. Put it on your calendar.
“I will apologize by Tuesday.”
“I will pray for five minutes each morning.”
“I will turn away from that temptation and ask God for help.”
- 3. Practice faithfulness for God, not for applause.**
Do one good thing this week that no one will notice. Do it as worship.
- 4. End each day with one question.**
“Was I faithful in the little things today?”
If the answer is no, do not fall into shame. Confess it, receive grace, and take the next step tomorrow.

Closing Encouragement

If you feel discouraged, hear this clearly.

God sees your faithfulness.

God honors obedience.

God uses the ordinary to shape your life.

Faithful in the ordinary is not small to God.

Next week, we will finish this series with a message about perseverance and legacy. We will talk about finishing strong and living with eternal purpose.



Leader Notes (Week 4)

Teaching Title: Faithful in the Ordinary – Obedience When It Feels Small

Goal for the group: Help people see that God values faithfulness in unseen, ordinary moments.

Encourage steady obedience to Christ without discouragement or comparison.

Key leader reminders

- Keep the tone **encouraging and steady**. This teaching is meant to strengthen discouraged believers, not add pressure.
- Help the group focus on **faithfulness over visibility**. Many people feel their ordinary obedience does not matter. Bring them back to Luke 16:10.
- Emphasize that obedience is a **trust issue**, not an attempt to earn God’s love. The teaching already anchors this in grace.
- Keep application practical. The goal is not to admire the message. The goal is to identify one small act of obedience and do it.

Small Group Discussion Questions by Teaching Section

Introduction + Core Question

1. Why do you think people often feel that ordinary obedience is small or unimportant?
2. Core question: **Do I trust God enough to obey Him consistently?** What stands out to you in that question?

Scripture Focus (Luke 16:10)

3. What stands out to you in Luke 16:10 about being trusted with very little and trusted with much?
4. How does this verse challenge the way people usually measure importance or success?

God Measures Faithfulness Differently Than We Do

5. The teaching says people often measure faithfulness by visibility, scale, or results. Which one do you think is the biggest trap for believers today? Why?
6. What is one “small” act of obedience that might not look impressive to people, but matters deeply to God?

Consistent Obedience Is a Trust Issue

7. Why is obedience really a trust issue and not just a behavior issue?
8. Which example in this section feels most personal to you right now: forgiving, being generous, speaking truth, walking away from sin, or serving humbly?

The “Very Little” Is Training for the “Much”

9. How can small repeated choices shape who a person becomes over time?
10. The teaching says discouragement is dangerous because it tells us the little things are pointless. Where do you see that kind of discouragement in real life?



This Week

11. Which “This Week” step do you want to practice, and what will that look like in practical terms?
12. How can the group encourage you or follow up with you next time?

