

## **Matthew 25:14-17 (NIV)**

**[14] "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. [15] To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. [16] The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. [17] So also, the one with the two talents gained two more.**

## **Matthew 25:18-21 (NIV)**

**[18] But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' [21] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'**

## **Matthew 25:22-24 (NIV)**

**[22] "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' [23] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' [24] "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.**

## **Matthew 25:25-27 (NIV)**

**[25] So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' [26] "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27] Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.**

# **The Same Old Thing?**

**Nehemiah 13:1-31**



## **PROBLEM... Vs.4-9**

- the High Priest Eliashib had given Tobiah rooms in the Temple

## **RESULT...**

- Temple could not Function properly
- Temple was Desecrated

## **ACTION...**

- Nehemiah threw Tobiah and his stuff out of the Temple
- Purified the rooms

## **PROBLEM... Vs. 10-14**

- Tithes for the Levites had not been given to them
- Neglect of the house of God
- broke the agreement they made in chapter 10

## **RESULT...**

- the Levites left ministry and went back to their farms

## **ACTION...**

- Nehemiah **REBUKED** the officials
- Appointed Trustworthy men to oversee

## **PROBLEM... Vs. 15-22**

- **working on the Sabbath**
- **buying and selling on the Sabbath**
- **refusing to Honor God on the Sabbath**
- **broke the agreement they made in chapter 10**

## **RESULT...**

- **Jewish people were treating the Sabbath as a Common day**

## **ACTION... Vs. 15-22**

- **warned those who were buying & selling**
- **rebuked the nobles**
- **closed and guarded city gates**
- **threatened merchants who sat outside the  
city walls**

## **PROBLEM... Vs.23-31**

- marrying pagan spouses
- disobeyed God's Word
- broke the agreement they signed in Chapter 10

## **RESULT...**

- children could not speak Hebrew/Aramaic
- start of spiritual slide

## **ACTION... Vs.23-31**

- **warned of the seriousness of this sin**
- **beat the men & pulled out their hair**
- **called curses down on them**
- **forced them to make a VOW to God**
- **drove away priests who had taken pagan wives**
- **asked God to deal with Priests**
- **organized things at the Temple**

→ The Christian Life is not  
merely about **STARTING**  
but about  
**FINISHING** the Race

## Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with PERSEVERANCE the race marked out for us.

## Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV)

Let us FIX OUR EYES on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.  
[3] CONSIDER him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that  
you will NOT grow weary and lose heart.

## **In Order to FINISH the Race...**

- **get rid of EVERYTHING that Hinders**
- **get rid of Sin which ENTANGLES**
- **run with PERSEVERANCE**
- **run the race MARKED OUT for you**
- **FOCUS on Jesus**
- **REMEMBER Jesus do not grow Weary  
and Discouraged**

**Satan “...comes to us and says ‘The future with God on this narrow way is hard and unhappy; but the way I promise is pleasant and satisfying. ...Faith stands or falls on the truth that the future with God is more satisfying than the one promised by sin.’”**

**(J. Piper)**

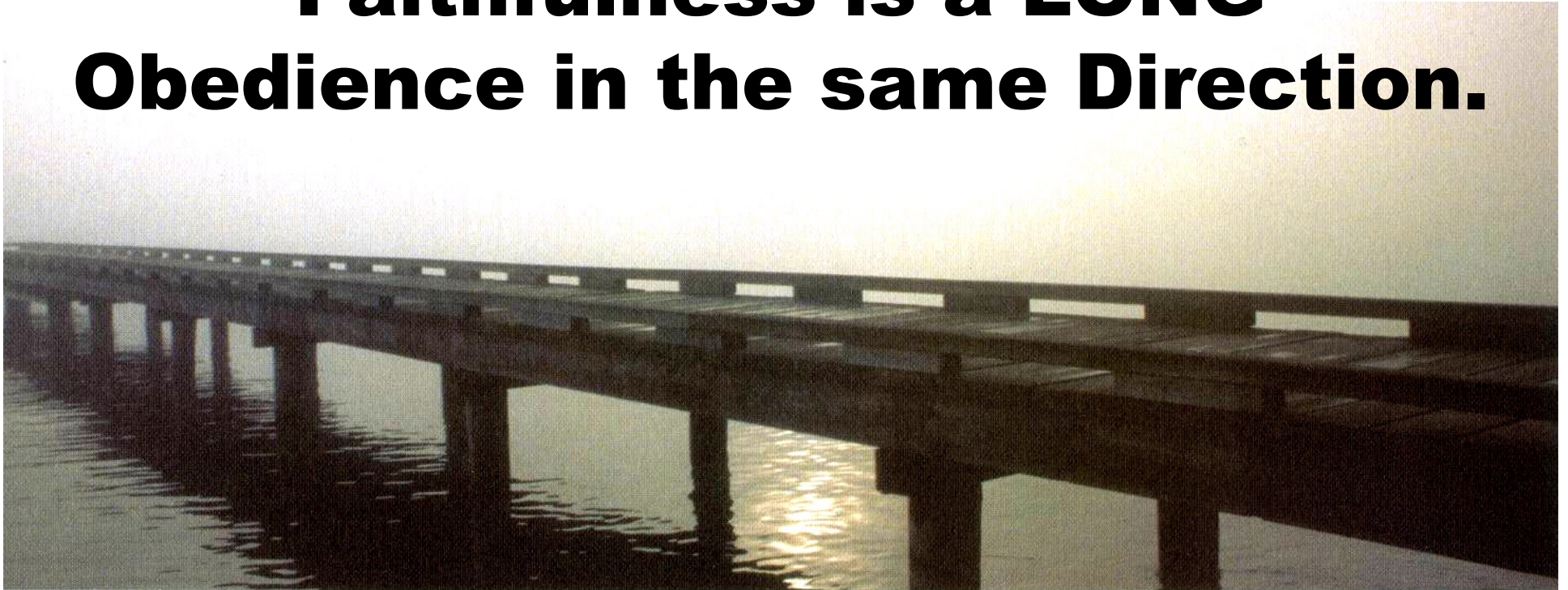
## 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NIV)

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. [2] Now it is required that those who have been given a TRUST must prove FAITHFUL.

## 2 Timothy 4:6-7 (NLT)

...The time of my death is near. [7] I have fought the good fight,  
I have FINISHED the race,  
and I have remained faithful.

**Faithfulness is a LONG  
Obedience in the same Direction.**



**Faithfulness**