



St Barnabas Cray

"Faithful to the End: Choosing the Right Cause"

Weekly Devotional Journey

Monday - The DNA of Truth

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

John 15:12 - Here is my command: love one another, just as I have loved you.

Devotional Thought

Just as contestants on The Traitors find living a lie exhausting, we too discover that deception leaves us feeling uncomfortable. Why? Because God has written His DNA of truth in our hearts. We are made in His image to live truthfully, to live well with others, and to be vulnerable enough to need each other's help. The relief that celebrity players felt when they could finally tell the truth reflects something profound about how we're designed. Truth isn't just a moral choice; it's woven into our very being. When we live authentically, we align with God's design for human flourishing. But this authenticity must be rooted in love—the kind of sacrificial love that Jesus demonstrates.

Reflection Question

Where in your life do you feel the exhaustion of not being completely truthful, and how might embracing God's truth bring you relief?

From Sunday's Sermon

"Deception may make great television, but it always leaves us feeling uncomfortable. We are made in God's image — to live truthfully, to live well with others, even if imperfectly."

Today's Application

Identify one relationship where you've been less than completely honest (perhaps to protect feelings or avoid conflict). Take a step towards truthful, loving communication today.

Morning Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for creating us with a longing for truth. Help me to live authentically today, speaking and acting in ways that reflect Your love. Where I've been deceptive or half-truthful, give me courage to choose honesty wrapped in love. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Actions Speak Louder

Evening Reflection

Our actions reveal what we truly live for—not just our words. Like the Faithful in The Traitors who were often undone not by lack of intelligence but by failing to notice what people were actually doing, we must pay attention to the fruit of our lives. We show our faithfulness to Christ not merely through what we say we believe, but through how we serve and give. This evening, reflect on what your actions today have communicated about your deepest loyalties and loves.

Evening Reflection

What did your actions today reveal about what you're truly faithful to?

Evening Prayer

Father, help my actions align with my words. May my service and giving reflect the love You've shown me. Transform my heart so that faithfulness to You flows naturally into faithful love for others. Amen.

Tuesday - Faithful to the Wrong Cause

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

1 Corinthians 15:54 - Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Devotional Thought

Hiroo Onoda's story is both inspiring and tragic. For 30 years, he remained faithful to his mission, missing decades of life whilst fighting a war that had already ended. His loyalty was admirable, but it was directed towards something that no longer mattered, bringing only sorrow and harm. This challenges us profoundly: it's not enough to be faithful—we must be faithful to the right cause. Many people give their best years to pursuits that don't last, leaving them anxious and alone. But Jesus calls us to something better: faithfulness to His love, which conquered death itself. Unlike Onoda's obsolete war, Christ's victory is eternal and life-giving.

Reflection Question

What might you be giving your best energy to that ultimately won't last, and how could you redirect that devotion towards Christ's eternal kingdom?

From Sunday's Sermon

"He had been faithful, a true, diehard patriot, but faithful to the wrong cause! He gave his life to something that no longer mattered — and it brought only sorrow."

Today's Application

Evaluate your current priorities and commitments. Choose one area where you're investing heavily but seeing little lasting fruit, and consider how to redirect that energy towards loving service.

Morning Prayer

Lord, grant me wisdom to distinguish between causes that seem important and those that truly matter. Help me to be faithful to Your love above all else, knowing that in You, my devotion will never be wasted. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Fixed Ideas and Open Hearts

Evening Reflection

Onoda couldn't accept the war was over because he had 'developed so many fixed ideas that he was unable to understand anything that did not conform to them.' How often do we become so set in our ways that we miss what God is actually doing? True faithfulness to Christ requires both steadfast commitment and humble openness to His ongoing work. Tonight, ask God to reveal any 'fixed ideas' that might be preventing you from seeing His truth clearly.

Evening Reflection

What fixed ideas might be preventing you from fully embracing God's love and truth in your life?

Evening Prayer

Father, soften my heart and open my mind to Your truth. Help me hold fast to what is good whilst remaining flexible enough to grow in understanding and love. Amen.

Wednesday - Self-Giving, Not Self-Protecting

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

John 15:13 - No one has greater love than the one who gives their life for their friends.

Devotional Thought

Jesus reveals that true love is fundamentally different from the world's version. His love is not self-protecting but self-giving. The greatest love isn't about taking or winning, but about giving—even to the point of laying down one's life. This is what we see in those who gave their lives for freedom, young people barely older than scouts and guides who chose others' safety over their own. But Jesus goes even further: He gave His life not just for friends, but for enemies. His faithfulness to love was so complete that even death couldn't contain it. This self-giving love is the standard He calls us to, and it's only possible because He first loved us this way.

Reflection Question

In what specific relationship or situation is God calling you to move from self-protecting to self-giving love?

From Sunday's Sermon

"Jesus' love is not self-protecting, it's self-giving. He shows us that the greatest love is not about taking or winning, but about giving — even to the point of laying down one's life."

Today's Application

Identify someone who has hurt or disappointed you. Take one concrete step today to show them self-giving love rather than self-protecting distance.

Morning Prayer

Jesus, thank You for showing me what self-giving love looks like. Help me to follow Your example, choosing to give rather than protect myself. Fill me with Your love so that I can love others as You have loved me. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Love for Enemies**Evening Reflection**

The ultimate test of faithful love is how we treat those who oppose us. Jesus didn't just die for His friends—He gave His life for His enemies, ensuring that hatred and death wouldn't have the final word. This is revolutionary love that transforms not just individuals but entire communities. As we reflect tonight on Christ's victory over death, we're reminded that His love is powerful enough to overcome any hostility we might face.

Evening Reflection

Who in your life feels more like an enemy than a friend, and how might Christ's love change how you relate to them?

Evening Prayer

Lord, Your love for enemies amazes me. Help me to see those who oppose me through Your eyes of compassion. Give me strength to love where it's difficult and to trust in Your victory over hatred. Amen.

Thursday - Belonging to Something Greater

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

John 15:9 - Just as the Father has loved me, I have loved you.

Now remain in my love.

Devotional Thought

Faithfulness begins with belonging—really belonging to something bigger than ourselves. Like uniformed groups who wear badges showing they serve, help, and work together, we're called to belong to Christ's community of love. This isn't just individual piety but corporate faithfulness. When we choose to be part of a church community, we're declaring our loyalty to the cause of Christian love. We can be faithfully loving in our families, work, neighbourhoods, and politics, but it all flows from this primary belonging to Christ. This belonging gives us identity, purpose, and the strength to serve joyfully even when it's costly.

Reflection Question

How does your sense of belonging to Christ's community shape the way you engage with your family, work, and neighbourhood?

From Sunday's Sermon

"It might begin with belonging — really belonging — to something bigger than ourselves... They're saying, 'I choose to be faithful to the best cause — the cause of Christian love.'"

Today's Application

Take one practical step today to strengthen your belonging to Christ's community, whether through serving, giving, or simply showing up for someone who needs encouragement.

Morning Prayer

Father, thank You for welcoming me into Your family. Help me to live out my belonging to You through faithful love in every area of my life. May my commitment to Your cause be evident in how I serve others. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Living Hope in Dark Times

Evening Reflection

Even amidst terrible news from around the world, we remember the good: Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai flourishing after finding sanctuary, everyday heroes showing courage and kindness. Christian hope isn't naive optimism but living hope rooted in Christ's resurrection. Where the world sees death as either spectacle or hopeless end, the Gospel confronts it and proclaims victory. This hope enables us to remain faithful even when circumstances seem bleak.

Evening Reflection

How does the reality of Christ's resurrection give you hope to remain faithful in difficult circumstances?

Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the living hope that comes through Your resurrection. Help me to be a bearer of this hope, remaining faithful to love even in dark times. Amen.

Friday - The Joy of Faithful Love

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

John 15:11 - I have told you this so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

Devotional Thought

Here's Jesus' remarkable promise: faithful love leads to complete joy. The world thinks giving means losing, but Jesus reveals the opposite. When we give ourselves away in love—when we forgive, help without expecting reward, choose kindness over cynicism—we taste the joy of God's kingdom. This isn't short-lived pleasure but deep, lasting joy that comes from living truthfully and lovingly. The joy Jesus promises is the fruit of faithfulness to the right cause. It's the joy of alignment with our Creator's design, the satisfaction of lives well-lived in service to eternal love.

Reflection Question

When have you experienced the deep joy that comes from giving yourself away in love for others?

From Sunday's Sermon

"The world often thinks that giving means losing, but Jesus says that when we give ourselves away in love, we actually find joy."

Today's Application

Look for an opportunity today to give without expecting anything in return—your time, attention, resources, or encouragement—and notice the joy that follows.

Morning Prayer

Jesus, thank You for the promise of complete joy through faithful love. Help me to trust that giving leads to gaining, that serving brings satisfaction, and that Your way of love is the path to true happiness. Amen.

Evening Devotion

What Kind of Faithfulness?

Evening Reflection

As we conclude this week, we hold together four pictures: Guy Fawkes' failed treachery, Onoda's misguided loyalty, The Traitors' exhausting deception, and Jesus' faithful love that conquered death. Each asks us the same question: What kind of faithfulness will we choose? May we be people who live faithfully, serve joyfully, and love sacrificially until Christ's kingdom of peace fills the earth.

Evening Reflection

Looking back over this week, what kind of faithfulness have you chosen, and what kind will you choose tomorrow?

Evening Prayer

Father, as this week ends, I commit myself afresh to faithful love. Help me to live faithfully, serve joyfully, and love sacrificially. Until Your kingdom comes in fullness, may my life reflect Your faithful love. Amen.