

Broken Faith

The Lord spoke to Moses, **“For both of you broke faith with me among the Israelites at the Waters of Meribath-kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin by failing to treat me as holy in their presence.”** (Deuteronomy 32:51 CSB)

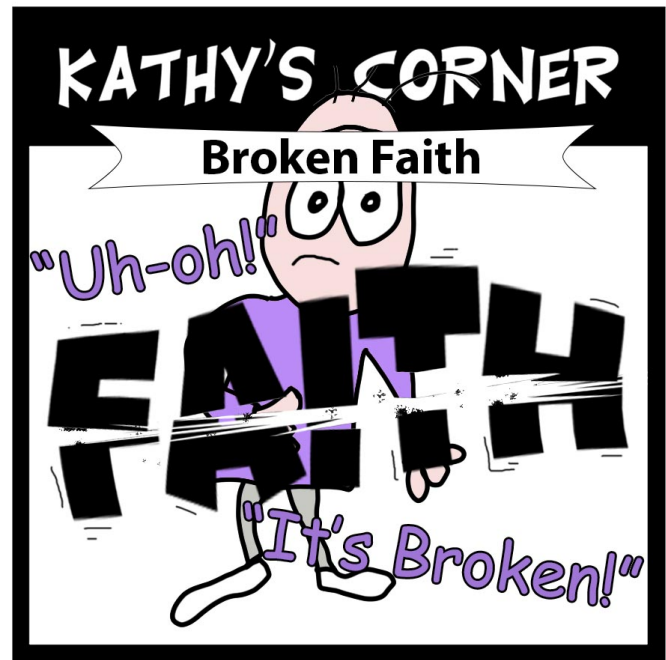
The above was the Lord talking about both Moses and Aaron, Moses’ brother. In thinking about Moses and Aaron, I think of Aaron as being a little “flaky” when he made the golden calf for the Israelites to worship; but Moses was different. He spoke with God personally, faithfully built the tabernacle to the tiniest detail according to God’s instructions, yet, here he was being told to go up the mountain to die because he didn’t believe God enough to do exactly as he had been instructed—to **speak** to the rock, so the people

would have water to drink. This was lack of treating God “as holy in their presence.” I have to wonder why Moses became so angry with people that he thought he could disobey God’s instructions, or perhaps he was too angry to think. It was a very costly action for him. God was not pleased.

It is pretty obvious that God expects things to be done in a way that honors Him, no matter where we are, no matter who causes us grief, no matter what we are engaged in. **So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.** (1 Corinthians 10:31 CSB) **And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.** (Colossians 3:17 CSB) If we all did this, the world could not call us hypocrites. Every action of our lives should reflect our worship of the Lord, as well as what we speak. Our freedom in Christ does not entitle us to live carelessly before people. If we do not honor Christ in all our living, how can we expect others to?

Jesus said, **“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.”** (John 12:24 NLT) Again, it is “a life for a life,” or for many lives—a harvest! When we get to a certain place in our lives, we are never out of the reach of Satan unless we die daily. I can look at the dangers in the parable of the sower (See Luke 8). The devil took the word from their hearts, so people couldn’t believe and be saved; some people had no root, and couldn’t get through a time of testing; some let worries, riches and pleasures of life take over, and they were unable to produce fruit. I confess that it is the pleasures of life that are quickest to turn my head. A conscious effort must be made not to forget God, His order, and what pleases and honors Him, while I, or we, enjoy what God has given for us to enjoy. When we do this, we treat Him as holy in the presence of others. If we don’t do this, can we expect to enter the good and fruitful land? Moses broke faith and was denied that entrance. **Jesus never broke faith.** Are we in Him? Is He in us?

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. **Remain in**



me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.” (John 15:1-8 NLT)

I believe it is the desire of every true Christian to be fruitful for the Lord. What does it mean to be fruitful for the Lord? It is letting the Father be *our Father*, letting the Lord be *our Lord*, letting the Holy Spirit be *our life in the spirit*, to say it in fewer words—letting God be God—not putting limits on Him through unbelief.

His compassion and love allow us to **“Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep”** (Romans 12:15 CSB). Perhaps we cannot be present in each situation, but through prayer we are able to lift some heaviness off of the suffering or weeping ones, or even see God enter into their circumstances as we invite Him to “come see about His children,” as Mike often prays. Also, the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22:23) is ours to bear.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:12-17 CSB)

I “heard” this one morning recently:

“The time is short. Pay attention to what matters, to all that matters—My people—the poor and the great, the crown of My creation.

We can have victories in the physical world, but the real battle is in the spiritual realm. It always has been. Which side are you on? You are on the wrong side unless you choose Me. Choose this day whom you will serve.”

I don’t believe those words were for me alone.

Lord, be light and life to Your people. Truly, we are in darkness without You. Will we remain/abide in You, or ***break faith?*** Lord, help our unbelief!