



CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



The Faithful Teacher By Becky Ramsey

When it is almost the end of the second quarter, each teacher wants to do his or her best and seeks to find ways to be the “faithful teacher.” At this point in the year, teachers are not far from our students in the battle of doing our best except for a greater degree of maturity. Teachers need to sincerely seek to set the example for dependability, reliability, and constancy in their efforts. When we seek to develop these all important qualities especially when the temptation is to relax, the best place to find our mentor is in the greatest teacher, our Lord. Psalm 89:8-9 states, “You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you. You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them.”

I can easily liken this verse to my classroom. If I am to be faithful, that spirit of the Lord must surround me at all times. It is necessary to have a conscious expectation of His presence to encompass my classroom in order to properly address the “surging sea of students.”

*When “waves of woe” begin to mount, I need to face those whitecaps as Christ did and speak peace. Verse 14 of the same chapter goes on with Christ’s qualities of faithfulness. “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.” Those two important qualities are as essential in the classroom as in any kingdom.

As the leader, we must have a demeanor that exhibits virtue and uprightness. Justice, or being consistent in the way we handle situations, is an element that cannot be overlooked. When a teacher responds inconsistently, students cannot be expected to perform at their best either. Many times when I have not had the best of days, I go home and evaluate the situation. I realize that the problem was in fact my own. I did not consistently draw the line in the sand. I gave too many chances. Students will often push to find out where the limit actually is. If it is not in the same place each day, they do not respond positively.

The rest of verse 14 adds more important ingredients to this study. “...Love and faithfulness go before you.” If love for our students is not evident, our “faithfulness” will not be effective. I have found that when my students know that each action comes from a heart of love, they can take even the difficult medicine of correction. They know I care enough to confront their actions, and I will do what is best for them in the long run.

Verses 15-17 give the key to our being faithful. “Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord . . . for you are their glory and strength.” My choosing to be the faithful teacher that I need to be can only happen when I walk in the light of His presence. I do not have enough determination for every battle that comes my way during the course of any day. I cannot muster the methodology to challenge students who are counting the days to the next holiday. I cannot creatively approach the curriculum in a way that tantalizes the imaginations of my students without His inspiration. My day is too demanding without His strength filling me moment by moment.

For me to remain faithful, I must lean hard on the one whose name means faithfulness. Verse 18 sums up the solution to seeking to be faithful. “Indeed our shield belongs to the Lord.” Without His shield and defense, we cannot become what He has called us to be....His faithful servant in our classroom. (Psalm 89:8-18 NIV)

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