

**KEEP THE
FAITH -
(FULNESS)**

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May 4, 2013

Lam. 3:22-23 KJV *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

Faithful in attendance: Man at Bethesda - sick 38 years; man at the Beautiful Gate (Acts 3:1-2).

John 5:2-9 KJV Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. 5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time *in that case*, he saith unto him, **Wilt thou be made whole?** 7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. 8 Jesus saith unto him, **Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.** 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

Acts 3:1-2 KJV Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being the ninth hour.* 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom **they laid daily at the gate of the temple** which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple.

Faithful in intercession: Anna

Luke 2:36-38 KJV And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; 37 And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Faithful in service: Story of Joseph. Not all are called to lead. Some are called to serve, even in the most unjust circumstances (Genesis 39). Even when he became Prime Minister, he was still a servant, subject to Pharaoh (Gen. 41:40).

1 Cor. 16:15 KJV I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,*)

Closing illustration:

In [January] 1924, Hachikō¹ was brought to Tokyo by his owner, Hidesaburō Ueno, a professor in the agriculture department at the University of Tokyo. [He was a two month old puppy.] During his owner's life Hachikō saw him out from the front door and greeted him at the end of the day at the nearby Shibuya Station. The pair continued their daily routine until May 1925, when Professor Ueno did not return on the usual train one evening. The professor had suffered from a cerebral hemorrhage at the university that day. He died and never returned to the train station where his friend was

¹ 'Hachi': 8 (likely referring to the 8th born in the litter); 'ko': prince or duke. Akita Inu breed.

waiting. Hachikō was loyal, and every day for the next nine years he waited sitting there amongst the town's folk. Hachikō was given away after his master's death, but he routinely escaped, showing up again and again at his old home. Eventually, Hachikō apparently realized that Professor Ueno no longer lived at the house. So he went to look for his master at the train station where he had accompanied him so many times before. Each day, Hachikō waited for Professor Ueno to return. And each day he did not see his friend among the commuters at the station. The permanent fixture at the train station that was Hachikō attracted the attention of other commuters. Many of the people who frequented the Shibuya train station had seen Hachikō and Professor Ueno together each day. They brought Hachikō treats and food to nourish him during his wait. **This continued for nine [almost 10] years** ['til March 8, 1935] with Hachikō appearing precisely when the train was due at the station.²

1 Tim. 6:10-12 KJV For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 12 **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life**, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 Tim. 4:1-8 KJV I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away

² <http://richtweets.com/kgqv>, accessed May 3, 2013

their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 **I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:** 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

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Hymn:

Farther Along: "Faithful 'til death said our loving master..."