

THE BIG IDEA: Faithfulness opens the door to more.

The Take-Off

Today we're bringing our FLOODGATES series to a close

Let's take a quick look back before we tackle our next key

We started this series talking about clogs - and about the world's longest traffic jam that people sat in because they didn't want to pay the toll to take the exits off the road

There is a cost to opening the floodgates and removing the clog, and that cost is our obedience.

We've looked at 2 areas where we often find clogs: finances and forgiveness

Specifically, we've seen that when we don't honor God in our tithes and offerings, we keep the floodgates closed, and when we don't forgive, we keep the floodgates closed

This morning, let's look at one final key that can unlock the uncontainable: faithfulness

1. Our faithfulness begins with His faithfulness

- a. If we've learned nothing else, it's that we can't do anything until God does something
- b. We love because He loves first, and we give because He gives first
- c. We're also faithful because He is faithful first; **our faithfulness begins with His faithfulness**
 - **Psalm 119:90 (NLT)** / God's faithfulness is present in every generation
 - **Psalm 36:5 (NLT)** / God's faithfulness is unmeasurable
 - **Psalm 89:8 (NIV)** / God's faithfulness surrounds Him / it's WHO HE IS (NLT - "You are entirely faithful!")
- d. He doesn't just do faithful things; His very nature is one of faithfulness
- e. That **MUST** become who we are because we have received our Father's DNA
 - **John 1:1 (NIV)** / Jesus is God
 - **1 John 2:6 (NIV)** / Jesus walked faithfully, and now we are to imitate Him
 - **Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)** / we are faithful because He is faithful
- f. Again, let me be clear - we aren't faithful because it's a good idea or because it creates opportunities for us - we are faithful because when God raised us from the death of our sins, He gave us a new nature and we are faithful because He's faithful
- g. When we don't act faithfully, we aren't acting in accordance with our nature
- h. "I am faithful" is a true statement of all believers. Sadly, "I don't live faithfully" is a true statement of some believers.

2. Our faithfulness begins in small things

- a. One reason we aren't faithful is that **our faithfulness begins in small things**, and small things are boring
- b. We want to be applauded for the big things before we're consistent in the little things
- c. (ILL.) NO MORE MIDDLE SCHOOL SETH CURRYS
- d. **Luke 16:10 (NLT)** / this is a statement / if we're faithful in the little, we'll be faithful in the big

3. Our faithfulness will continue in all things

- a. When our faithfulness begins in small things, then **our faithfulness will continue in all things**
- b. That's why our Big Idea is so true: **faithfulness opens the door to more**
- c. Why? Because we can be trusted to do the same things even in a different place
- d. In the story of Joseph, he was the same in Potipher's house, in prison, and with Pharaoh
- e. What he did and who he was never changed, even when everything else did
- f. Faithfulness before an audience of One leads to fruitfulness before an audience that must be won
- g. My prayer is that God would give us a hunger for the little things

The Landing

As we bring our FLOODGATES series to a close, I want to end it with a video that perfectly illustrates this principle of unlocking the uncontainable by being faithful in the little things more than flashy in the big things.

God is looking for the heart that is content in Him alone, and that is the one who He will promote.

[**VIDEO / The Greatest Dancer - Andrew**]

Let's pray.