

RUNNING WITH THE



LEGACIES OF FAITHFULNESS

Onesimus: The Runaway Restored

Philemon 1:8-16

Sermon Series Summary

We have been captivated by their stories since we were children and now we are going to dive into their lives and learn from the “Giants of the Faith” who lived a life of faithfulness and impacted the world for the glory of God. The lessons we learn by their example will encourage us to make our own “Legacies of Faithfulness” for the next generation. Join us as we RUN WITH THE GIANTS!

Main Text

Philemon 1:8-16 (ESV) – ⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love’s sake I prefer to appeal to you – I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus – ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother – especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it – to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

**Big Idea – Hope is Revealed as the Redeemer Restores, Revives,
and Refreshes the Broken Hearted**

Three Lessons Learned from a Restored Runaway

Lesson #1 – The Principle of Petition: Never Stop Seeking the Will of the Lord

Philemon 1:8-10 – ⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you – I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus – ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment.

Matthew 7:7-8 – ⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Lesson #2 – The Law of Restoration: God's Restoration is Greater...

Philemon 1:11-14 – ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.

Lesson #3 – The Model of Mercy: Forgiveness Brings a Time of Refreshing and Focus

Philemon 1:15-20 (ESV) – ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Memory Verse

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV) – Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Challenge:

You are called to consistently apply the divine principles and truths found in the Word of God. Take the next step in your study by (1) Discussing and applying the sermon with your small group, (2) Participating in a Sunday School class, or (3) Study through the study guide found at the Connection Point.