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Have you?

JESUS NEVER FORSAKES HIS OWN

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"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Hebrews 13:4-6)

In the passage above, the writer of Hebrews connects two thoughts: marriage and God's faithfulness. The first is actually an illustration of the latter. In establishing marriage, God provided a relationship by which a man and woman can begin to understand the importance of God's faithfulness. Those who are faithful in that marriage relationship enjoy the wonder of having a faithful lifelong partner. In contrast to this, those who are unfaithful in marriage experience great sadness, conflict and even anger. Unfaithfulness in the marriage relationship perverts the intended pure picture of Christ's relationship with His church. This invites severe judgment from God.

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Though many marriages fail to provide a pure

picture of Christ's faithfulness, Christ, nevertheless, always remains faithful to His own.

Scripture shows us many examples of marital unfaithfulness. King David was one such example. Even though God called David "a man after mine own heart" (Acts 13:22), David sinned grievously in his marriage relationships. It always brought him deep distress, trouble and even death of loved ones. Yet, God remained faithful in spite of David's unfaithfulness. God's faithfulness must not be misinterpreted to mean that David's unfaithfulness didn't really matter. David himself sorrowfully repented of and repudiated his great sin and begged for God's mercy. In the passage below, we find him urgently begging God's forgiveness.

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." (Psalm 51:1-3)

As we read through the rest of Scripture, we dis-

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