

GRADE 10

ENGLISH – Quarter 1

1) One of the best ways to see the faith, love, and integrity of Christ, is to look at His life on this earth. Never did He waver in His beliefs. Many like to say that the Old Testament is not valid. They claim the same with the Ten Commandments. If this were so, why did Jesus, our example, follow the truths found in the Old Testament? He obeyed the Ten Commandments and expounded on them. The faith of Christ was a strong and pure faith. He did not teach burdensome and confusing rituals and requirements, Matt. 11:28-20 “²⁸Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

From Jesus, we hear the truth of Salvation by Faith. He could have used His own power in His life, but He fully trusted in God for power. He spent much time in prayer, building His trust and relationship with God, Mk. 1:35 “³⁵Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” Because of His trust and the peace that God gave Him, He could sleep through the storm, Matt. 8:24 “²⁴And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.”

Think of what we could do for God if our faith was like that. Jesus says we could move a mountain with faith like a mustard seed, Matt. 17:20. We too should be devoted to keeping the Commandments. We should never water down our beliefs for any reason. We can never keep the Commandments in our own strength, but God has promised to

help us. Zech. 4:6. If we take Him at His word, then others can see the faith of Jesus in us too.

Jesus had integrity. We know this, because He never sinned. We have, but we can be forgiven and cleansed, 1Jh. 1:9. We can overcome and live a life of integrity just as Christ. He did nothing wrong. His enemies tried to bring things against Him, but even Pilate said Jesus was just.

In spite of that, He was killed. This is the Greatest example of His love. There are many stories of selflessness. In 2006, in Iraq, Pvt. Ross McGinnis smothered a grenade that was thrown into his military vehicle, instead of jumping to safety, saving the others in the vehicle. Also in 2006, in Afghanistan, Sergeant First Class Jared Monti was killed trying to save a wounded soldier from his team. There are other such great stories of great selflessness and love for comrades. There are many who have died fighting for our country. Stories such as these are overwhelming. John 15:13 says “¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

Think then, of the incredible love of Christ. He suffered and died for the whole world, even those that reject Him and hate Him! He made the greatest sacrifice that could be made. He lived a hard life on this earth, He laid aside His powers, some forever, to save us. That shows an incredible, selfless love that is greater than anyone can ever know. He shows this love in so many other ways too: by providing jobs, homes, food, clothes, by promising to never leave or forsake us, protecting us from danger. The list could go on because God is love, 1 Jn. 4:8.

God can put love in our hearts. Love is not compromising truth or convictions. We should never do that. Truth can be painful, but it is truly loving. We can learn a lot from

Christians such as the Waldenses. They were meek and loving, that is why they wanted to spread the truth, but they held fast to their beliefs. Contrary to what some may think, being a loving Christian is not making sure others feel good about themselves no matter what they do. The truth convicts, but it also brings peace. The people in the days of the Waldenses were so relieved to hear of God's love and forgiveness. They were so burdened with fear and unbiblical requirements. To hear Jesus's comforting words was so wonderful to them, Matt. 11:28-30.

These days, it is all about being loved and not hurting anyone. While that sounds nice, having a different opinion or different beliefs could be considered unloving. The true Christian lifestyle has always been radically different from the world. Today, I believe that divide is even bigger, and growing. For some, they are called to be missionaries, or join the ministry. We can be missionaries at home, work, and wherever we go. By not conforming to the world, and by living a life of surrender, God can shine through us. Romans 12:2 says it all “²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Our actions mean more than anything we could say. The way we carry ourselves, the way we handle situations, the things we talk about, the things we laugh about, and more, can all show Christ to others. By being fully surrendered and not ashamed of our faith, we can exemplify Christ in our world today.