



Lesson 11

February 14, 2021

Showing Loyalty

In an age of social media, many people judge loyalty by how many “followers” or “likes” they have. With a few keystrokes, you can “follow” someone today and “unfollow” them tomorrow. There is no true loyalty on social media. In today’s Bible lesson, Jesus had not just followers but devoted, loyal, and fearless followers. In today’s contemporary story, Stephanie witnessed a true act of loyalty.

After the divorce, Stephanie returned to the workforce to support herself and her two middle-school-age children. She found a job in an office, met Johanna, and they have become good friends in the six years Stephanie has worked in the office. The only warning Johanna gave Stephanie was to beware of the office manager, who is known to be a bully.

While Stephanie was making copies in the copy room, the office manager was sharing with a staff member that her husband was diagnosed with early onset of Alzheimer’s. The office manager spoke loud enough for everyone to hear. So, before leaving the room, Stephanie felt compelled to say to the office manager she would be praying for her. Later that day, Stephanie overheard the office manager commenting to the receptionist that Stephanie was there to convert people. Stephanie privately spoke to the office manager and apologized if her intentions were misunderstood. Since then, the office manager stopped speaking to Stephanie.

Stephanie’s annual review was in January. The office manager was very negative, saying that Stephanie performs poorly and was not a team player. Stephanie strongly disputed the claims. At the end of the day, Stephanie was fired and escorted out of the office.

Johanna saw the pattern: if the office manager did not like a person, she concocted lies to get a person fired. When Stephanie filed for unemployment to tie her over in between jobs, the office manager disputed Stephanie’s claim and Stephanie had to appear at a hearing.

At the hearing, Stephanie was surprised to see Johanna, who came to testify against the office manager. Stephanie and Johanna’s testimony were so convincing that Stephanie was awarded her unemployment benefits. Johanna returned to work with an office manager she had testified against. Stephanie realized just how loyal Johanna was.

Discussion Questions:

1. What words describe or are synonymous with *loyalty*?
2. Discuss a friend to whom you have been extremely loyal, and vice versa.
3. What does a fully devoted follower of Christ look like?