

Day 69 – May 4

Happy Star Wars day! (“May the 4th be with you.”)

As I ponder the Star Wars universe, I am drawn to the issue of loyalty. Star Wars, like most great epic sagas, is rife with betrayal. From the Emperor turning against his apprentice Darth Vader to the Clone Troopers turning against their Jedi masters with Order 66, loyalty seems to be in short supply. And because of this, it is a terribly valuable commodity.

In our reading today, we find similar betrayals and cloak-turning. Whether it is Jezebel and her kin turning on God who made them rulers, or Jehu turning against the kings of Israel and Judah, this story has betrayal after betrayal, and those betrayals seem to drive the narrative forward. But as always, it leaves us with the question of who will next betray the current victor. Just as loyalty is usually rewarded with more loyalty, so betrayal tends to beget more betrayal.

Loyalty is a key ingredient to our faith. We might even call it “faithfulness”, God’s to us or ours to Him. So we have to ask ourselves as we ponder our own faith journey, how loyal are we to God? Are we “sold out” or “all in” with our faith, considering life to be an exercise in obedience to God? Are we loyal to put God somewhere high up on our priorities list, but more focused on ourselves and our pleasure/comfort/safety than on obeying Him, especially when obeying Him interferes with our own pleasure/comfort/safety? Are we loyal during church and maybe at a church-led service project once in a while? Or is God someone we ask things of but don’t really think much about otherwise? On this continuum, how is your loyalty level to God?

Because He promises that His loyalty level to us is immovable – He will never leave us nor forsake us. And when it comes to the creator, sustainer, and redeemer of all of life, that’s a pretty big thing to know!