



Matthew 24:45-51

Matt. 24:45 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?”

Matt. 24:46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Matt. 24:47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

Matt. 24:48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, “My master is delaying his coming,”

Matt. 24:49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

Matt. 24:50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,

Matt. 24:51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Notes:

Context! Keep in mind that the context of the next 3 parables that Jesus teaches is found in Matthew 24:36...

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

That is, each of these parables is designed to reinforce the truth that Jesus is coming back; but in light of the fact that *no one knows when...we need to be ready!* Watching, waiting, and working. You’ll note that each of the parables share these common themes...

- Someone leaves for an unspecified period of time - (a master, a groom, and a king)
- Some are left behind to care for and use wisely what was entrusted to their care by the one who departed - (servants, virgins & stewards).
- He who departed returns at an unexpected time - (the master, groom, and king)

Those left behind (servants, virgins & stewards) are then called to account for how they managed what was left in their care and are rewarded or punished based upon their stewardship. The point is that all three parables remind Jesus’ disciples that they are stewards...

...that is, everything they have, their time, talent and treasure really belong to the Lord and therefore they have a responsibility to use what God has given to them for His glory.

Observations & Discussion

1. Let's begin by defining the characters in this Parable.

Who is the Master?

Who are the servants?

What is the Master's household?

What does it mean to be a ruler over the Master's household?

What does it mean "to give them their food in due season?"

2. In a word, (literally one word), what determines whether or not a servant will be rewarded by the master? After you've answered the question take a look at 1Corinthians 4:2 to see if you're correct.

3. What has the Master asked you to do while He is away? Are you doing it?

4. Write down the name of a person in the Bible who was not a pastor, apostle, prophet, or church leader, but who will be richly rewarded by Jesus. What did that person do that gained him or her the recognition of the Master?

5. What does your observation from question 4 tell you about the value the Master places on the task He has given you to do?

6. Why does the evil servant begin to mistreat his fellow servants and live a sinful lifestyle?

7. What is the main lesson that Jesus wants you to take away from this parable?