

## FAITHFUL AND WISE

After revealing that no one knows the day nor hour when He will come unexpected as a thief in the night, Christ then in three parables went on to highlight and emphasize this idea of His imminent and unexpected return and the need to “live ready”. This emphasis is seen in the parable of the servants (Mt. 24:46-51); the parable of the ten virgins (Mt. 25:1-13); and the parable of talents (Mt. 25:14-30).

### **Matthew 24:45 (NKJV)**

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

This parable underscores the importance of living ready in light of Christ’s imminent return. Here in verse 45 Christ introduces the first of two servants. The first one is faithful and wise, the second one is evil.

Life is a stewardship for which all will give an account. In this parable the master (the Lord) made this servant ruler over his household “to give them food in due season”.

The word “servant” is the Greek word *doulos* which literally means “slave”. As God’s people we are God’s slaves. As believers we rightfully belong to God by virtue of creation and redemption. Jesus bought us with His blood and we now belong to Him (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

As God’s slaves we have been given a stewardship in relation to the household (the family) of God (cf. 1 Pet. 4:10-11). To give them food is the idea of taking care of them. In the world there is nothing more important to God than the welfare of His people. This slave was put in a stewardship position of taking care of the family.

Some have emphasized that this has special application to those who serve in leadership roles in the Church – especially to elders. It is true that elders have the special responsibility of feeding the flock the Word. And it is true that teachers are more accountable (Heb. 13:7; Ja. 3:1).

However, we need to remember that this is a parable and parables generally are making ONE main point. And because of this most commentators think that while there is application to spiritual leaders, the

application is broader in that all God's children are gifted and have a stewardship responsibility in relation to the household of God.

**Matthew 24:46 (NKJV)**

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

All that God asks is that when He comes He finds us doing what He has given us to do. The faithful and wise servant makes the household of God a priority. They are involved with God's people. They are making a contribution. They make the welfare of Christ's Church family a primary issue – simply because this is God's PRIORITY.

This is what God is doing in the world today – He is building a forever family of believers called the Church. He has gifted each one of His children and placed them into the body for the express purpose of building up the body (Eph. 4:16).

**Matthew 24:47 (NKJV)**

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

For the faithful and wise servant there will be great reward. "The reward for obedient service is the capacity for greater service." (Warren Wiersbe)

Those who are good stewards over what God gave them charge over in this life will have an even greater role of ruling in the kingdom.

In Luke 19 Jesus gave a parable of stewardship concerning Minas. One was faithful and given authority over 10 cities, another was faithful and was given authority over 5 cities, but the unfaithful steward was called wicked and judged accordingly (cf. Mt. 25:19-23).

All believers are joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17); and as overcomers they will "inherit all things" (Rev. 21:7). However, there will be differences of rewards in the kingdom related to our faithfulness in service. Those faithful in little will be made ruler over much.

As true Christians we are a part of God's family and all have a vital role to play in the building up of the family.

**1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)**

**10** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

And beyond this one of the great evidences of truly being a child of God is that we love the brethren.

**1 John 3:14 (NKJV)**

**14** We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

Someone who claims to be a Christian but wants nothing to do with God's people and doesn't care at all about the body of Christ really gives evidence that they are not saved at all. This is disposition of the evil (phony) servant as Christ goes on to describe in the remainder of the parable which we will consider next time.

Life is a stewardship responsibility! We were created by and for God. Repentance aligns with God and His program and His program in the Church age is the building of a forever family called the CHURCH.

To not be on God's "church page" calls into question the profession of those who claim to be "servants" of God. We are not here to serve self but rather to serve God and His purposes. This is the fruit of genuineness!

**Live Ready!**