

Matthew 24:45-51: Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' ⁴⁹ & begins to beat his fellow servants & eats & drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him & at an hour he does not know ⁵¹ & will cut him in pieces & put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth.

Intro: We've been focusing on the return of the King! In Matt 24, Jesus is lovingly warning His sheep of God's future judgment in the destruction of God's temple & God's future judgment in the return of Christ at the end of the age. Jesus' main concern is to teach His disciples how to live faithful lives & continue to trust & obey Him during these times of great judgment & destruction. Faithfulness is what Jesus wants! And it's what we want! Jesus is coming back when no one expects Him, so stay awake & be ready by continuing to trust & obey Him.

Pursue faithfulness & wisdom like a good slave of Christ Who will greatly reward the righteous & punish the wicked

1. The Faithful And Wise Servant Trusts And Obeys Jesus

Matthew 24:45-46: Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

a. This person is a slave of Jesus: He or she is a slave of Jesus Christ [Jesus is the Master Who is coming back!]

- **1 Corinthians 7:22:** Likewise he who was free when called is a slave of Christ.

- **Romans 1:1:** Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus

- **Galatians 1:10:** If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a slave of Christ.

- **Titus 1:1:** Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ (**Jesus is God!**)

- **Colossians 4:12:** Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you

- **James 1:1:** James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

- **2 Peter 1:1:** Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ

- **Jude 1:1:** Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ

- **Revelation 1:1:** He made it known by sending his angel to his slave John

If you are a Christian, you are a slave of Jesus Christ: Romans 6:16-23: Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ &, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity & to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin & have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification & its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **GOSPEL!**

True freedom is only found in slavery to Jesus Christ!

Jesus is freedom come in the flesh!

He's the freest of all beings in the universe!

He's the freest of the free!

He's the free gift of heaven!

He's the free gift of God!

He's the free gift of grace!

He's the free gift of righteousness!

He's the free gift of holiness!

He's the free gift of redemption!
He's the free gift of glory!
He sought freedom!
He bought freedom!
He brought freedom!
He wrought freedom!
He fought for freedom!
He won this freedom when He died on that cross and rose up from the grave!
He freed Himself from the chains of death and conquered sin, death, and Satan so that all those who repent and believe in Him might be saved!

That's my King! I wonder if you have freedom in Him today?!

He's the Son Who sets us free so that we might be free indeed!
He frees from sin!
He frees from hell!
He frees from death!
He frees from boredom!
He frees from cares!
He frees from worries!
He frees from fear!
He frees from bondage!
He frees from slavery!
He frees from all idolatry!
He sets us free from the love of money!
He frees from adultery, fornication, pornography, and all sexual immorality!
He frees from lying, stealing, rebellion, murder, and all coveting!
He frees from lovelessness, hypocrisy, selfishness, and all sin which is God-murder!
He frees from the wrath of God!
He loves us, and He freed us from our sins by His blood!

b. This servant is faithful: This servant trusts, loves, & obeys his master. Faithfulness is not perfection, it's direction. The faithful servant always wants to trust Jesus more, love Jesus more, and obey Jesus more!

Think of the faithful saints in the hall of faith in Hebrews 11. They were not perfect! Some of them, you wonder, how did they get in Hebrews 11, like Samson & Gideon! But they trusted the Lord! Abraham had some major character issues: sins! Lied about his wife twice, laughed in God's face when God told him he would have a son, slept with Hagar trying to get a son of promise. This is not faith! Yet he's commended for his faith! God is merciful

Author: The strongest consolation for [you], struggling to grasp & [live out] the high level of commitment Jesus requires, will arise from Jesus' response to the failure of His disciples. They failed to understand ([Mark] 4:13, 40-41; 5:31; 7:18; 8:32; 9:6, 32, 38-39; 10:13-14). They received Jesus' strong rebuke in [Mark] 8:14-21, where He openly suspects them of hard hearts, unperceiving eyes, & stopped ears. They lacked faith ([Mark] 4:40; 9:19). They responded to Jesus' second & third death predictions with remarkable insensitivity: by competing with each other for glory & spiritual honors. Jesus' steady loyalty to His disciples in return will encourage [you]. In Mark 14, the disciples failed completely in the very self-denying obedience that Jesus made essential for eternal life in [Mark] 8:34-38 & 13:9-13, for in Mark 14, Peter denied Jesus, & the rest abandoned Jesus, all in order to save their own lives. Yet throughout this increasing failure by the disciples, Jesus remained faithful to them.

c. This servant is wise: Proverbs 9:10: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

- **James 3:17:** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy & good fruits, impartial & sincere.

- **Colossians 2:2-3:** Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge.

d. This servant takes care of the master's household: The servant provides food. The servant is a good steward of all in the house! He loves & serves diligently.

- **Genesis 39:2-5:** The LORD was with Joseph, & he became a successful man, & he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him & that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight & attended him, & he made him overseer of his house & put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house & over all that he had the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.

- **John 21:17:** He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

We are called to be good stewards of all that God has given us: our bodies; our gifts; our resources; our time; our whole lives! We are called to feed Jesus' sheep: giving Gospel food to the lost & make disciples of all nations!

Pursue faithfulness & wisdom like a good slave of Christ Who will greatly reward the righteous & punish the wicked

2. Jesus Will Greatly Reward The Faithful And Wise Servant

Matthew 24:46-47: Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

a. Faithful & wise servants are blessed: A supernatural, Holy Spirit given, satisfaction in God & joy in God. The opposite of being cursed by God. Everlasting joy, pleasure, & happiness in God & in all His gifts.

b. Faithful & wise servants will reign with Christ: There is a sense in which we reign with Christ right now: we are in union with Christ & are seated with Him in heavenly places (Eph 2:6-7), we subdue sin, we make disciples, & the church has been given the keys of the kingdom. But our text today is speaking of a future reign:

Heidelberg Catechism: 32. Q: Why are you called a Christian? **A:** Because I am a member of Christ by faith & thus share in His anointing, so that I may as prophet confess His Name, as priest present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to Him, & as king fight with a free & good conscience against sin & the devil in this life, & hereafter reign with Him eternally over all creatures.

- **Matthew 25:34:** Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

- **2 Timothy 2:11-12:** The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him [Wicked servant sinfully takes & abuses power/Faithful rewarded with power!]

David Murray: This reign climaxes at the last judgment when the believer's body is reunited with the soul & shares in the soul's power & authority. Sin, death, the devil, & the world will be under our feet. But there's more. Crowned with the crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8), the crown of life (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10), & the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4), we will access & enjoy the King's power, possessions, & authority, including even ruling over the angels (1 Cor. 6:3). As Christ promised, the meek shall inherit the earth (Matt. 5:5), & part of that will involve specific responsibilities according to our faithfulness in this world (Luke 19:17). "But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, & possess the kingdom forever, even forever & ever" (Dan. 7:18).

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3. The Wicked Servant Is In Rebellion Against Jesus

Matthew 24:48-50: But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,'⁴⁹ & begins to beat his fellow servants & eats & drinks with drunkards,⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him & at an hour he does not know

a. The wicked servant is not born again: "My master is delayed" The wicked don't know God. They obey only for show. If the master might be around, they will obey because they don't want to get caught. They obey only from fear of punishment. They have no delight in the master, & they have no delight in doing the master's will.

2 Peter 3:3-8, 17-18: knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, & the earth was formed out of water & through water by the word of God,⁶ & that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water & perished.⁷ But by the same word the heavens & earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment & destruction of the ungodly.⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, & a thousand years as one day . . .¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people & lose your own stability.¹⁸ But grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now & to the day of eternity. Amen.

b. The wicked servant grasps for power, abuses power, & is violent: The wicked are power hungry. The wicked beat people! This is violence! This is rebellion against the master! They are selfish, proud, arrogant, & violent.

Colossians 3:8-14: But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, & obscene talk from your mouth.⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices¹⁰ & have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised & uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, & in all.¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy & beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, & patience,¹³ bearing with one another &, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

c. The wicked servant is self-indulgent: The wicked have their glands as their gods. Their belly & appetite is their god. They eat & drink with drunkards. They live for their own selfish, sinful pleasures.

Ephesians 5:18: And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit

d. The wicked servant is not ready for the return of the King: V. 50: the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him & at an hour he does not know

Hebrews 9:27: And just as it is appointed for man to die once, & after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

4. Jesus Will Cut The Wicked Servant Up In Pieces

Matthew 24:51: And will cut him in pieces & put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth.

a. Being cut in pieces is a gruesome, horrifying punishment: Georgetown County, SC, man sentenced in murder of man burned, cut into pieces: "They doused his body with gasoline, burned his body down to as much as they could get rid of. When that wasn't enough, they used an axe to cut him into pieces to try to get rid of his bones," Deputy Solicitor Scott Hixson told the judge.

Montgomery County woman plans insanity defense in slaying, dismemberment of parents: Verity Beck, who has been accused of fatally shooting her parents and dismembering their bodies with a chainsaw inside their Abington home, has notified officials that she intends to use an insanity defense.

- **Judges 20:6:** So I took hold of my concubine and cut her in pieces & sent her throughout all the country
- **1 Samuel 15:33:** And Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.
- **Ezekiel 16:40:** they shall stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords.
- **Hebrews 11:37:** They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword.
- Jesus will inflict this punishment & it will be absolutely right & good & just & deserved!

b. The wicked servant will be punished with the hypocrites: He had an outward appearance of godliness & service to the master, but was not truly a faithful servant. It was all outward show.

Matthew 7:21-23: Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, & cast out demons in your name, & do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

c. In that place there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth: There will be weeping because of sorrow & pain. And there will be gnashing of teeth because of anger & hatred toward the master – toward Jesus.

Song Mavis sang in the hospital: Standing Outside: Judgment is surely coming, coming to you and me

We will be judged that morning, for all eternity
Some will go into heaven, others will be denied
Will you be in that number, standing outside?
Standing outside the portals, standing outside denied
Standing outside the portals, standing outside denied
Knowing that with the demons, ever you shall abide
Never to share the beauty, awaiting the sanctified
Oh! what an awful picture, standing outside.

Standing outside while loved ones, enter the pearly gate
Knowing that there forever, you will then separate
To be away from loved ones and by our God denied
Oh! what an awful picture, standing outside?

Can you not see the picture of those who're lost in sin
Standing outside the portals, without a hope to win
Soul-crushed with deepest sorrow, without a friend to guide
Oh! what an awful picture, standing outside.

d. A summary of Matthew 24: David Platt: His delay will be long; His return will be sudden; His judgment will be irreversible; Our hearts will be exposed; Our sentence may be surprising; We must be prepared; Are you keeping watch for Christ? Are you faithfully following Christ?

Jonathan Edwards' Resolves: 1) Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life; 2) Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour, before I should hear the last trumpet; 3) Resolved, to inquire every night, as I am going to bed, wherein I have been negligent, what sin I have committed, and wherein I have denied myself: also at the end of every week, month, and year; 4) Resolved, to ask myself at the end of every day, week, month, and year, wherein I

could possibly in any respect have done better; 5) Resolved, I will act so as I think I shall judge would have been best, and most prudent, when I come into the future world; 6) Resolved, to endeavor to my utmost to act as I can think I should do, if I had already seen the happiness of heaven, and [the torments of hell].

Our only hope: Jesus! Leviticus 1:6: Then he shall flay the burnt offering and cut it into pieces . . .

- Jesus was cut into pieces & burned with the wrath of God on that cross so that we might never face such horror!

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Beloved, may we all be ready for the Return Of The King: S. M. Lockridge: He's enduringly strong! He's eternally steadfast! He's imperially powerful! He's impartially merciful! He's the greatest Phenomenon that has ever crossed the horizon of this world! He's God's Son! He's the sinner's Savior! That's my King! He doesn't need me, & He doesn't need you! He stands alone in Himself! He's unique! He's unparalleled! He's supreme! He's preeminent! That's my King! He's the Miracle of the age! He's the only One able to supply all of our needs simultaneously! He can hear all of us pray at the same time! He supplies strength for the weak! He's available for the tempted & the tried! He sympathizes, & He saves! He's the Almighty God Who guides & keeps all His people! He heals the sick! He cleanses the lepers! He forgives sinners! He delivers the captives! He defends the feeble! He blesses the young! He regards the aged! Now that's my King! Do you know Him?! I wish I could describe Him to you, but He's indescribable! He's incomprehensible! He's irresistible! The heaven of heavens cannot contain Him, let alone a man explain Him! You can't outlive Him, & you can't live without Him! That's my King! He always has been, & He always will be! He had no predecessor, & He'll have no successor! There was nobody before Him, & there'll be nobody after Him! You can't impeach Him, & He's not gonna resign! That's my King!

Christ Jesus Is The Faithful Slave
The Only One The Father Gave
He's Wise And Holy, Pure And Brave
Who Died And Rose And Came To Save
There's No One Like Him, All The Rave
God-Man Divine, No Traits He'd Waive
But Took On Flesh Our Way To Pave
Crushed By His Father's Anger Wave
Then Rose Alive Up Out That Grave
And Though We're Evil, Sin Deprave
By Faith Alone Our God Does Save
And Sanctify Like Christ Behave
On God's Strong Hands Our Names Engrave
All Your Sins Jesus Forgave
Now You're God's Child And Holy Slave
Who Will Be Faithful, Ready, Brave
For Christ Alone You'll Love And Crave!