

Date: Sept. 03, 2017

Text: Matt 24:45 - 51

Title: Being Faithful Stewards

Theme: Jesus is our Faithful Steward. We must be like Jesus and remain faithful to the very end in order to receive the good reward.

Response: Communion

Benediction: Romans 6:11 - 14

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time’ - and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

(Matthew 24:45–51 NIV)

#### I. The Steward of Gondor

A.usurper to the throne

B.loss of fidelity to his lord and King

C.Failure to provide for the Kingdom needs

D.In terms of Spiritual Warfare Denathor’s problem was not the outward attack, nor the distractions of the world - Denathor’s problem with his own “internal traitor”

#### II.The Marks of the Faithful Servant 24:45

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?”

A.The three Markers

1.Wisdom

2.Faithfulness

3.Care for the Master’s Household

B. The three anti-marks of wickedness vv. 48-49

“But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.”

1.He does not believe the master will return

2.He abuses the master’s household

3.He wastes the master’s goods with drunkards

#### III.The reward for the faithful servant

A.The reward for the faithful servant vv.46 - 47

“it will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.”

1.It is good for the master to find the steward faithfully at work

2.The steward will be put in charge of all the master’s possessions

## B. The reward for the wicked stewards vv. 50 - 51

“The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

1. The master will catch the wicked servant in the act of wanton betrayal
2. The Master will kill him and cast him into outer darkness

## C. Wider context and themes

### 1. Context:

- a) Jesus is in the last days before his crucifixion
- b) Matthew records Jesus preparing his disciples in light of His approaching death

### 2. Matthew 23 Jesus rebuking inside the Temple

- a) scathing indictment of the pharisees
- b) 7 times Jesus proclaims “Woe!” to the pharisees
- c) They are blind fools, snakes and sons of hell
- d) They preach but do not practice
- e) They are responsible for the murder of all of God’s prophets

### 3. Matthew 24 Jesus warns the disciples outside the temple

- a) Jesus is not impressed with the temple but predicts its destruction
- b) Jesus tells the disciples what will come and warns them
  - (1) The King will return and He will judge his servants vv. 1-3
  - (2) It’s going to be really bad vv. 7-13; 15-26; 28-41
  - (3) “don’t be led astray. Rather, remain watchful” vv. 4-6
  - (4) It will be obvious when the King returns. Therefore, endure to the end and remain awake! vv. 14, 27

## IV. The types of the faithful servant

### A. Matthew 25 Jesus expositing the stewards

#### 1. Expositing Wisdom vv. 1-13

- a) It is folly to not prepare for the return of the king and to fail to watch for his coming

#### 2. Expositing Faithfulness vv. 14 - 30

- a) It is wicked to be lazy and to fail to labor for the king’s good until he relieves you

#### 3. Expositing Goodness vv. 31 - 46

- a) It is wicked to fail to care for the members of the king’s household who are hurt and in need

B. Being Faithful Stewards has many many specific points of application. Yet they may be well categorized into three parts (Cf. Micah 6:8, Matt 23:23, Matt 24:12 - 14)

1. loving mercy
2. doing justice
3. walking faithfully (humbly before God)

### C. Jesus Is the Faithful Steward

1. He has obeyed the law perfectly
2. He has striven to the very last breath and drunk the very last drop of God’s wrath

3. He is the prototype and arcotype of the Faithful Steward and his servants must put on Christ in order to continue to walk faithfully after Jesus the Master
4. He has not only lifted a finger to help those He teaches, he has given his hands, his feed, his head, his side, his back and his blood.

#### V. The call to being Faithful Stewards

- A. Being Faithful Stewards requires the servant to **continuously consider** that he is working for his master; To give himself to work for His master's profit until he is relieved of duty.
- B. Being Faithful Stewards implies **enduring** as a wise servant who **looks** for the return of the king and **has prepared** to wait until his return and **working as a faithful servant who labors continuously to feed** and care for the King's subjects.
- C. Being Faithful Steward is wholly incompatible with hypocrisy. Being outwardly conformed is not an indicator of inward fidelity. The real measure of fidelity is in the constant enduring and faithful pursuit of and application of mercy and justice.
- D. Being Faithful Steward is assulted by our three historic enemies
  1. Our flesh is lazy and whimpers that the work is too hard and isn't accomplishing anything
  2. The world sings to us to distract our attention and tells us that such preparations for fantasies and fables are silly and unwise
  3. The devil whispers to us that there is no master and all that we have we have a right to have, and to rule
- E. Questions to consider
  1. What areas of resources, gifts, skills, abilities, time or relationships has God entrusted to you?
  2. Are there any areas where you have not put on or are not putting on Christ?
  3. In which areas entrusted to you do you hear the wimper of your flesh, the song of the world or the whisper of satan?
    - a) You've already done so much, you don't have anything left.
    - b) God surely can't expect you to keep on going...
    - c) It's silly and stupid to plan for your supposed mystical future with your unseen God.
    - d) You have the right to use your stuff, raise your family, spend your money, use your time ANYWAY you darn well please.

#### VI. Communion

- A. Forgive us for our lack of faithfulness
- B. Forgive us for our foolish hearts which are led astray
- C. Forgive us for misuing the gifts that you have given us
- D. strengthen us through Jesus body that he gave for our sake in order to present us to God so that we may endure, as Jesus endured, so that we may be faithful as Jesus is faithful and that we may lay down our lives to the King as Jesus laid down His life for our sake.

#### VII. Benediction Romans 6:11 - 14

- VIII. "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and

offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”