



[Matthew 24:45-51](#)

(45) Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom his lord has set over his household, to give them food in due season? (46) Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he comes shall find so doing. (47) Truly I say to you, he will set him over all his property. (48) But if that evil servant shall say in his heart, 'My lord delays *his* coming,' (49) And shall begin to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken, (50) The lord of that servant will come in a day that he does not expect, and in an hour that he does not know. (51) And he shall cut him asunder and shall appoint his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

A Faithful Version

The parable of the faithful and evil servants admonishes us to be faithful and wise in carrying out responsibilities and relationships with our fellow servants, our brothers in the body of Christ.

A faithful person is trustworthy, scrupulous, honest, upright, and truthful. Without specifically stating it, [Christ](#) is saying that we have to be keeping the first of the two great commandments: "You shall [love](#) the Lord your [God](#) with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" ([Matthew 22:37](#)).

In this context "wise" means judicious, prudent, sensible, showing sound judgment. It suggests an understanding of people and situations, showing unusual discernment and judgment in dealing with them. Just as Paul writes in [1 Thessalonians 5:6](#) about being [self-controlled](#), Christ's use of "wise" indicates an exercising of restraint, using sound, practical [wisdom](#) and discretion, and acting in good sense and godly rationality. In short, Christ means exercising love. He tells us that we should be faithful in keeping the second of the two great commandments: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" ([Matthew 22:39](#)).

Since this parable applies to everyone, Christ admonishes us to lead in a way that

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unites and inspires others to be faithful. We do this by giving them the [truth](#), a good example, and encouragement. In this way, we become wise and faithful stewards of the trust God has given us.

In these verses, Christ strongly links belief with behavior in both examples. If we believe in His return, we will not live as we would like carnally. It is as simple as that. If we really believe He will return soon, this parable shows that our belief will regulate our lives, keeping us from extremes of conduct.

This faithful attitude is opposed to that of the scornful servant, who says his master delays His coming and beats his fellows. His conduct turns for the worse as he eats and drinks with the drunkards. From the description Christ provides, the evil servant's attitude is arrogant, violent, self-indulgent, gluttonous, and hypocritical. Because he believes he has plenty of time to square his [relationship with God](#), his conduct becomes evil.

In summary, *whoever is entrusted with duties must perform them faithfully, prepared at all times to account for what he has done. The key words in this parable are faithful, wise, and ready.*

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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[**The World, the Church and Laodiceanism**](#)

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