



[Matthew 24:45-51](#)

(45) "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? (46) Blessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. (47) Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. (48) But if that evil servant says in his heart, "My master is delaying his coming," (49) and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, (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, (51) and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

New King James 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

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Matthew 24:45-51 (<http://www.theberean.org>) 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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