



## Daily Verse and Comment

### [Luke 12:42-47](#)

(42) And the Lord said, "Who then is the wise and faithful steward, whom the lord shall put in charge of his household, to give to each one the portion of food in season? (43) Blessed is that servant whom the lord, when he comes, shall find so doing. (44) Of a truth, I tell you, he will set him over all his possessions. (45) But if that servant shall say in his heart, 'My lord delays his coming,' and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidservants, and to be gluttonous and become drunk, (46) The lord of that servant will come in a day that he does not expect, and in an hour that he does not know, and will cut him asunder, and will appoint his portion with the unbelievers. (47) And that servant who knew the will of his lord, but did not prepare, nor did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes;

*A Faithful Version*

Here, Christ's instruction to watch continues. However, this time [Jesus](#) focuses specifically on the responsibility of the steward—the one given authority over the household while the Master is away. His theme is preparation and faithful continuance of duty. He tasks the steward—a type of the ministry—with giving the household "food in due season."

Similarly, Paul outlines the responsibilities of church leadership in his letter to the Ephesians. Notice that the focus is on the church, not on [the world](#): "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, *for the equipping of the saints* for the work of ministry [service], *for the edifying of the body of Christ*. . ." ([Ephesians 4:11-13](#)). Church leaders are responsible for feeding and preparing God's household and encouraging them to watch *themselves*.

If the steward does not properly watch, however, the human proclivity is to let down—and abuse. The steward in [Luke 12:45](#) is focused on the Master's

return—or lack thereof—rather than on his own alertness and attention to his duties. As a result, he falls into excesses of eating and drinking (rather than providing food for the household). He ends up beating those he was supposed to watch over, as if he thought they belonged to him. Clearly, those who have [stewardship](#) responsibilities in the church have an added weight to "take heed to themselves" lest they neglect or even damage those for whom they are supposed to be providing spiritual food.

— David C. Grabbe

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