



Daily Verse and Comment

[Luke 12:42-47](#)

(42) And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of food in due season? (43) Blessed *is* that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. (44) Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. (45) But if that servant says in his heart, "My master is delaying his coming," and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, (46) the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers. (47) And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*.

New King James 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

To learn more, see:

['As a Thief in the Night'](#)

Related Topics:

[Christian Responsibility](#)

[Edification](#)

[Equipping of the Saints](#)

[Feeding the Flock](#)

[Food in Due Season](#)

[Neglect](#)

[Sober Watchfulness](#)

[Steward, Responsible](#)

[Stewardship](#)

[Thief in the Night](#)

[Vigilance](#)

[Watchfulness](#)