

**The Kingdom of Heaven**  
**The Faithful Servant**  
**Matt 24.42-51**

[**Expectancy!** Expectancy is the Theme of much of Matthew 24. Expectancy is that state of mind and being that drives born again Christians to make themselves ready for eternity to come. Expectancy is that characteristic that drives individuals toward purity and perseverance in the spiritual affairs of this mortal life.]

[Waning **expectancy** leads to much of what we see in our culture today. A faltering expectancy will result in lethargy and laziness in the affairs of our Lord and His kingdom. Many Christians have lost their resolve to be faithful because they do not really believe that our Lord will soon return. They have lost their drive to be righteous because they feel they can make things right or repay our Lord with more and greater good works in days to come. **Many Christians are comfortably saved, but neglectfully serving, and poor soldiers in our Lord's army because the Brigade is at rest and reserves no prospect of nearing deployment.**]

[In other words, many no longer expect our Lord to return at any time in the near future. Yet, Jesus said:]

[**Matthew 24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**<sup>43</sup> *But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.*<sup>44</sup> **Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.**]

[Are you Watching? Are you Ready to stand face-to-face with our Lord.]

**A. A Faithful Servant (vs 45-46)**

*[Matthew 24:45-47 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?<sup>46</sup> Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.<sup>47</sup> Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.]*

**A Faithful Servant Will,**

1. **Serve with Duty** (vs 45; 1 Sam 15.22) [**– Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?**]

[This is a servant that has heard his calling, and he has heeded it.]

[Like Moses, who feeling his inadequacies, when directed by God, obeyed Him and went back to the land of Israel's bondage to lead God's people out into freedom.]

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- A. A Faithful Servant – A Faithful Servant will,  
1. Serve With Duty

[**Illustration – Medical Professionals in our Epidemic** – We see faithful duty when we see our Medical Professionals, Doctors, Nurses, and other staff reporting for their shifts day after day to care for those who are desperately sick. There is no vaccine against this virus (Covid 19) so all of these medical professionals have the real chance of contracting this disease. Yet, they arrive to serve their shifts with duty, kindness, and determination. What a great demonstration of Serving with Duty.]

[My Christian brothers and sisters, there is no vaccine against sin and its damage. As we Serve our Lord dutifully, we must continue to serve regardless of our circumstances. We must Serve our Lord with determination until He returns.]

**[What are the Duties that God's Children are called to Obey?]**

- **[Fulfill Our Duty of Proclamation (vs 45, Heb 5.12-14) - Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?** – What is this meat? It is the Word of God in its truth.]

Heb 5.12

[**Hebrews 5:12-14** For when for the time **ye ought to be teachers**, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; **and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.** <sup>13</sup> **For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.** <sup>14</sup> **But strong meat** **belongeth to them that are of full age,** even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.]

[Meat is a reference to the Word of God, but this refers to the Word of God in the hands of a skillful and matured ambassador for Christ.]

**[Notice the “Due Season.” This is a reference to the time we live in, this End Time season and the circumstances of the current situation.]**

Matt 28.18

- [Fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28.18-20) – Our duty to provide the Meat of the Word of God enlightens our duty to the Great Commission.]

*[Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

*<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the*

*Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.]*

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- A. **A Faithful Servant** – A Faithful Servant will,
1. Serve With Duty – Our Duties include,
    - a. Fulfill our proclamation – the Meat of the Word.
    - b. Fulfill the Great Commission

[In many Churches it seems that the Christians duty is best fulfilled by Feeding the Hunger, providing Child and youth programs in Christian modified child care. While these things can contribute to our God given duty they often fail to provide the true Meat of the Word of God.]

[The great Commission calls Christians and Churches to,]

- Evangelism (Matt 28.19) – **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, . . .** – Winning the lost to Christ with the Gospel.
- Assimilation (Matt 28.19) - **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**
- Discipleship (Matt 28.20) – **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: . . .** – This is to give them the Milk and Meat of the Word of God.\

1 Sam 15.22

[We have been given our Duty by our Lord, are you fulfilling your duty?]

[We must be reminded that sacrifice that is void of obedience is no sacrifice at all. Sacrifices that will be acceptable to God must accompany the discipline of diligent obedience.]

*[1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. ]*

2. **Serve With Diligence** (vs 46; 2 Tim 2.3) [– “Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.”]

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[This is a servant that with impudence serves with persistence. He refuses to quit or give up. He will not be hindered by life’s obstacles but will be faithful to the end.]

[Like Joseph, who endured:]

- [In spite of the hatred of his brothers.]
- [In spite of the slavery of Potipher’s house.]
- [In spite of the cold damp darkness of his prison cell.]
- [In spite of the opulent riches and authority of Pharos’ throne room.]

[Paul’s stern counsel toward young Timothy reminds us to,]

*[2 Timothy 2:3 . . . endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ]*

**[Illustration - Law Enforcement Officers in our time of riots called protests,]**

[We get a sense of Diligence when we recently watched the many law enforcement officers standing their lines facing protesters and rioters.]

[These officers stand their lines facing large groups of people, hoping that this group will be peaceful and will voice their concerns peacefully]

and respectfully. However, when these Law Enforcement Officers put on their gear and took their place on their assigned line, **Dutifully**, they accepted the real possibility that someone in this group might throw a brick, or large stone, or might throw a frozen water bottle. Yet these officers stood their line with duty.]

[I watched, on the news, in one instance, a National Guardsman, stand face to face with a protester screaming in their face, as if they had made the laws of the land. They are mere officers executing their duty with diligence. When one ethnic National Guardsman was standing his ground a screaming protester said, “Why don’t you go home and leave our community alone?” To which the Guardsman answered, “Sir, I live three blocks from here. This is my community.”]

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  2. **Serve With Diligence**

[As Christians we must be reminded that Serving our Lord with Diligence will not always be appreciated and will at times come with hardship; but we are called to do our God given duty none-the-less.]

[Our Lord warned us that there are many things that will challenge our diligence in the parable of the sower and the seed (Matt 13; Luke 8),]

- [The Ravens and the Hard Path – The Devil our adversary]
- [The Stoney Soil - Persecution and Tribulation. Hardships will challenge our diligence in service.]
- [The Thorny Soil – The Cares of this World]
- [The Good Soil]

**[A Faithful Servant will serve with Diligence in his Duty.]**

3. **Serve With Dignity (vs 44)** [– “Of a truth I say unto you, that **he will make him ruler over all that he hath.**”]

[This is a servant that recognizes that he is serving something far greater than himself or his own interests. He is serving the King of Kings and Lord of Lord’s.]

[As Daniel faithfully served God, even if it meant spending a night with hungry lions.]

[One day the faithful servants of our Lord's earthly kingdom will reign with Him for all eternity. We will only find ourselves fit for authority in eternity if we learn to submit to our Lord's authority in our mortality.]

*[Revelation 3:20-21 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup> To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ]*

**B. A Faltering Servant (vs 48-51) – A Faltering Servant Will,**

*Matthew 24:48-51 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; <sup>49</sup> And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; <sup>50</sup> The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, <sup>51</sup> And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

**1. Be Foolishly Persuaded (vs 48; Jer 17.9; Psalm 10.3-13) [– “But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; . . .” – Faltering stewardship begins in the heart.]**

- [The deceitfulness of the human heart (Jer 17.9) – Be careful about trusting your heart. If there is anyone we hope that we can truly trust it is ourself. Yet, we find, and are reminded in Scripture and in life's experiences that even our own heart can be deceived, and is likely to be led astray.]

Psalm 10

*[Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? ]*

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- [The denial of the wicked heart (Psalm 10) – An accounting is totally foreign to a faltering servant. **This is the total lack of a sense of responsibility.** These live wholly for the moment. These will be caught completely off guard when they find that every action and motive has been fully recorded.]

*[Psalms 10:3 For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth. ]*

*[Psalms 10:13 Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it. ]*

**2. Be Flippantly Promiscuous (vs 45; 1 Cor**

**6.9-10)** [– “. . . and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; . . .”]

[**They Lack Restraint** - There is no restraint to the wicked. Those who are lost and undone will feel comfortable making excuses for their sin. They are marked by vice, which is the result of vile affections, which are the result of a depraved heart.]

[**They Lack The Restrainer** - Their lack of restraint and deep spiritual conviction, their willingness to engage in those things that are reprehensible to our Lord, is the outward manifestation of their inward spiritual condition. If they really knew the Lord of glory, of they really had a deep personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, then they would, or could not condone presumptuous sin in their life.]

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10** **Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** *Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,<sup>10</sup> Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

[**Reasoning with you Sin** – Do you find comfort in excusing your sin? Are you without conviction when you lie for personal gain? Is there no restraint in your heart and life? You will only be able to find comfort in sinfulness if

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  1. **Be Foolishly Persuade** – His Heart

you lack the withholding of the Holy Spirit of God, which is an evidence of the lack of His transforming presence in your life.]

3. **Be Fully Punished (vs 51; cf. Luke 12:46-48)** [– *And shall cut him asunder, and*

*appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

– While there are spiritual and carnal Christians and carnal Christians will have a very different experience at the Judgment Seat of Christ than a faithful Spiritual Christian. **Don't make the mistake of thinking our text is speaking of the difference between a spiritual and carnal Christian.** We must let the Word of God define the Word of God.]

Luke 12.46

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  - 1. Be Foolishly Persuade – His Heart
  - 2. Be Flippantly Promiscuous

[*Luke 12.46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.* - We must consider that this faltering servant,]

- **[Will be caught Unawares (vs 46)** – “*The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, . . .*” – In the midst of his vice and folly he will be found. Those who put off their conversion until tomorrow will discover in the end that tomorrow never come.]

[Secondly, those who are devoutly religious but not redeemed will also be caught unaware in their lost condition. Don't make the mistake of thinking that because someone is religious they are redeemed.]

- **[Will be caught Unawakened (vs 46)** – “. . . and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.” – Consider diligently what the testimony of a condoning spirit, regarding sin, any sin, reveals about your deep spiritual condition. Any rebellion, any lack of surrender and submission to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ reveals volumes about your eternity to come.]

C. A **Fulfilled Servant** (vs 46, 51) [– Today you are one of these two servants. You are either **Faithfully Serving** or **Foolishly Sleeping**. A faithful servant will be a fulfilled servant. Why? Because a faithful servant will have the support and strength of our incredible Heavenly Father as his stay and support.]

*[Matthew 24:46 **Blessed is that servant**, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.]*

[A faltering servant will be most miserable in this life, because he will know that condemnation continually consumes him.]

*[Matthew 24:51 **And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites:** there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.]*

**If you would be a Faithful and Fulfilled servant then you must be,**

1. **Marked by Dedication** [– A watching servant is one who is expecting. He is one who is persuaded and persistent. He is one who is determined to be found working and ready. He has decided to follow Jesus and has determined that he will hear his Lord say, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.”]

2. **Marked by Redemption** [- One cannot possibly be found as a faithful servant without first experiencing the new birth only found in our Lord Jesus Christ. Without the redemption found through our Lord Jesus Christ you can never be acceptable to Almighty God. You must accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior first, and then you will be empowered to be a faithful and fulfilled servant in His glorious kingdom.]

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