



The Faithful Steward & Blessed Servant

"Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing" (Luke 12:43).

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Faithfulness is a priceless quality that God expects of His children. God Himself is faithful in all His ways and works - therefore setting for us a glorious example to follow. In this study Jesus is revealing that only the faithful will qualify for the rapture and participation in the marriage supper of the lamb.

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. **41** Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? **42** And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? **43** Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. **44** Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. **45** But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; **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. **47** And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. **48** But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more" (Luke 12:40-48).

Jesus has just shared a stirring and challenging message about the need for everyone to be ready for His return. In response to a question, He used an illustration to bring the message nearer home. Many today may not believe that Christ is coming back again. Some claim they believe, but there is no evidence of such a believe in their lives. We can learn a lot from this

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message including:

- 1) "Speakest thou this parable unto us, or unto all" (vs 41). What a wonderful question from Peter that is reflective of contemporary Christians. It is very easy to pass on gospel messages to 'others' with the false illusion that it does not apply to us. It is important noting from the response of Jesus (vs 42-48) that the message is for everyone, and that is only those who are faithful to the end that will make it.
- 2) The key to this message is that the time of the Lord's return can not be accurately predicted by any man, therefore anyone who wishes to 'relax', 'take a break' or go on a 'spiritual holiday' will be surprised as s/he would have missed the mark of faithfulness in service till the end (vs43).
- 3) Every servant (i.e. all Christians) have duties assigned by God, in the body of Christ (vs 42). Commitment and faithfulness to that assignment will determine his/her qualification for rapture.
- 4) Faithfulness will be rewarded by Christ (vs 43-44).
- 5) Unfaithfulness is spurned by faulty thinking (vs 45) and leads to unpreparedness and missing the rapture (vs 46).
- 6) Knowing God's will and not making necessary preparations to accomplish it will attract severe punishment (vs 47).
- 7) Ignorance of God's will is not an excuse for not accomplishing it, and still attracts punishment (vs. 48).
- 8) The more we know the greater the responsibility it places on us (vs 48).