

A Tale of Two Servants

Luke 12:41-48

Jesus said that “The Son of Man is coming” at an hour that you do not expect (v. 40). We are to *expect the unexpected*. Jesus is coming when He’s not expected. Christ’s coming includes *more* than just the Second Coming. Jesus comes in *personal salvation*; and in *physical cessation* (Jesus “holds the keys of life and death” Rev. 1:18), and in *personal resurrection* (when “those in the tombs will hear His voice” John 5:28). It seems this text is speaking of Jesus coming in judgment for what becomes *individual condemnation* to some who think they’re living in the best of times. As Charles Dickens says “*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.*” So it is with mankind. Peter- “Are you addressing this parable (the Master coming unexpectedly) to us or to everyone?”

I. **Everyone is a servant to Jesus Christ and is accountable to Him.**

We’re not all a child of God by *salvation*, but all are His servant by *creation* and *obligation*. These servants picture *people*, not preachers. Where in the Bible is it said we are all servants? Every knee *will* bow to Jesus *because* every *knee* must bow to Jesus as Lord (Romans 14:11). Paul says, “By Christ all things are created...and all things are made *for* Him.” (Col. 1:16). Every human being has been given his or her life as a divine stewardship from Jesus Christ. “Who then is the faithful and sensible steward?” There are only two categories of servants.

II. **Jesus describes all people as either *faithful servants or faithless servants*.**

In this text (Luke 12:41-48), Jesus describes two different categories of people in this room.

A. **A faithful servant is a person of *selflessness*.**

Some may respond, “I thought a faithful servant is one who believes in Jesus Christ?” Listen to what James says to us, “I will show you my faith by my works” (James 2:18). Jesus said, “By your love for others people will know you are my disciples” (Jn. 13:35). Jesus describes a faithful servant in this text three ways:

1. Called by Christ and committed to people on a mission of love and service (v. 42a)
2. Gives what is needed to others instead of taking what’s desired from others (v. 42b).
3. A doer of what Christ commands not just a hearer of what Christ commands (v. 43).

B. **A faithless servant is a person of *selfishness*.**

The faithless slave is the opposite of the faithful slave: He is committed to himself and takes from others what he desires. He’s a taker, not a giver; a glutton, not a steward. This faithless servant is “is living in the best of times, but is *in reality* in the worst of times.”

III. **A *faithless servant* will be judged by Jesus according to his faithlessness.**

“God will bring every act to judgment, both good and evil will be judged” (Eccles. 12:14). There are degrees of punishment: The most severe for the willful; lesser for the ignorant. In I Chronicles 20 Joab goes out to fight for Israel against the Ammonites. After victory, King David orders that the Ammonites be “cut in pieces” for their sin against the Israelites. William Barclay describes Satan in dialogue with 3 apprentice devils intent on man’s ruin. “Well what’s your plan?” The 1st devil said, “I’m going to tell them there’s no God.” “That will not delude many,” Satan said, “they know there’s a God.” The 2nd said, “I’m going to tell men there’s no hell.” Satan said, “You’ll deceive few. They know there’s punishment for sin.” The last one said, “I’ll tell them there’s no hurry.” “Go, you have found success.”