

# The Parables of Jesus

- The Faithful and Wise Servant  
(Second Usage)  
- Matthew 24:45-51

Jesus had entered Jerusalem on His final journey. HE was going to be crucified in a few days. Of course, no one knew this but Him. He is with His disciples and others in Jerusalem. He finishes a discourse with the religious leaders and is now outside of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives. In Matthew 24:3, Mark 13:3 and Luke 21:7, we see while on the Mount of Olives, Jesus was asked by His disciples, "...when shall these things be and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

In Matthew 24:4-28; Mark 13:4-27 and Luke 21:6-28, Jesus went into a dissertation of the "signs of those times." He then proceeds to use a series of parables in which the parable we will be discussing is the third. Remember, in its context within this teaching setting with His disciples, Jesus is using this parable to answer their question "...when shall these things be?"

This is a "re-use" of the parable that Jesus gave in Luke 12:42-48 to reinforce its principles and lesson to the disciples. Below is a quick review of the context and background of this parable as used the first time by Jesus in Luke 12:42-48.

- The first time Jesus used this parable they were in the region of Galilee. Jesus was teaching and giving warnings to His disciples and the multitude to beware of the hypocrisy and "leaven of the Pharisees."
- This parable was used the first time in response to a question asked Jesus by Peter. In Luke 12:41, Peter asks Jesus, "...Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?"
- Peter wanted to know if all of these things that Jesus just taught them were directed to just them or were they directed to everyone, including the Pharisees, as well.

Jesus now uses this parable a second time in Matthew 24:45-51. However, in this context, Jesus is using it as a continuation of His response to the disciples of when the Kingdom of Heaven will come, the signs of His coming to establish His Kingdom, and of the end times. The major reason and emphasis in using this parable a second time was to make sure His disciples, both then and today, are ready and prepared for what lies ahead concerning the end times and Jesus' return.

*The Parable of the Faithful and Wise Servant - Matthew 24:45-51 - "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 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, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

The primary teaching and usage of the "Faithful and Wise Servant" was used by Jesus to reaffirm His teachings of the "end times" prior to Him returning and taking the throne in Jerusalem for the millennium. His primary concern in giving this parable a second time is to let the leaders who would be leading His people when He returns know what He will be expecting from them. Jesus is prophesying to the leaders and those in authority, both within the Church and civil authorities, that when He returns for the second time the same judgment will occur if He finds the "attitude of heart" is not correct towards his beloved creation - saved or unsaved.

God has given all positions of leadership and authority for the purpose of His will to be accomplished - both within the church and within every other aspect of life - civil, business or secular. Severe will be the consequences to those "*evil servants*" who, when He returns, He finds are hypocrites, who misuse their God given authority, and usurp and misrepresent the Master.

The lesson of the parable is clear to His disciples both back then and to His disciples of the "generation" of His return, whenever that may be. It may be for us, today, as He may return in our "generation." He tells us that "**blessed**" will be those who, when Jesus returns, He finds being a **faithful** and **wise** steward over His beloved "assets," His creation. Those that are found "faithful" and "wise" will rule and reign along with their Master, Jesus, during His millennial rule and reign over this earth.

On the contrary side, those that are not watchful, ready or prepared shall be cut asunder, and find their lot with the hypocrites. Jesus again uses the phrase that is threaded throughout these last few "end time parables" for those who are not His true disciples - "*there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*"

This parable is very "telling" to us in this day. It is clear. This parable is telling us that not everyone who is in leadership is a true leader with the same heart as Jesus. Oh they may seem to start off correct but as this parable reflects, what matters is how their heart will be when Jesus returns. Jesus would not be telling us this parable in this way if He didn't mean to show us that there would be some who are in leadership positions, even in this day, that have the incorrect heart.

Unfortunately, there are many in the Body of Christ, today that do not believe there will be any judgment within the Body of Christ when Jesus returns. From what we see and hear in this parable Jesus is being very clear, especially to those who are in leadership positions. The message is clear to all leadership as well as to all believers. They are not to misuse or abuse their position and take advantage of it for their own gain. The idea and concept of leadership in the Body of Christ is taken very seriously by Jesus. It must never be taken lightly by those in leadership positions.

The key in all of this is the phrase that Jesus uses – "But and if the lord delays..." That is a key part of the entire equation - Jesus' "delay in His coming." There are many reasons why Jesus has not come back as of yet. We are not going into that at this time. However, we do see through this parable that one of those reasons will be to root out and expose for all to see, those who are truly not belonging to Jesus. A key fact in all of this is that they will be in leadership positions. You would think, "How could that happen?" It will. Hmm... The fact of the matter is that they will be exposed – for all to see, at the proper time. Hmm...

Those within the Body of Christ and in leadership today **must heed** this warning by Jesus in these last days. Jesus is coming. The question we need to ask ourselves is this, "Are we **portraying** our Master to this world and to His Body of believers as He should be portrayed?" Or are we instead, **betraying** our Master even though we know His will but we are not prepared, nor are we preparing those that He has entrusted to us, for His return? That question will be answered and it will be answered by Jesus and seen by all.

The first time Jesus used this parable it was tell those were following Him to beware of the hypocrisy and "leaven of the Pharisees" of that day. This time He is telling those who were following Him at that time and to all of us today to beware of the leaven of the false teachers and false leaders who will be infiltrating the Body of Christ just prior to His return. Unfortunately, Jesus tells us what will happen to those who are found to be unfaithful and not truly founded upon Him just prior to His return. He states that these "leaders" shall be cut asunder "*...and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*" The end result is not very good.

*Let those that have ears to hear, let them hear...*