

“Knew His Lord’s Will”

Luke 12:41-48

Verse 41 records for us the question by Peter (who appears to be the spokesman for the disciples now) as to whom the previous parable regarding the Lord’s return was directed – the disciples or the great crowd that had gathered. Although Jesus didn’t answer the question directly, it is seen, by looking at verse 54 later in this passage, that He answered by addressing the disciples in the verses that we will look at in this message. It is most important that those that are in leadership positions for the Lord (those that have the duty of pastor and teacher) are the most ready and best equipped to lead, and that is whom He addresses here (and that topic of His address, as well).

I. IT IS HIS WILL WE WORK – VS. 42-44

A. We are to be “faithful and wise stewards.”

1. “Faithful” – means one that can be counted on to do the task set before him.
2. “Wise” – means to be capable of doing the job that he is being counted on that is set before him.
3. “Steward” – not just a servant, but a steward – one higher than a servant, one (although a servant) that has been given authority over other servants.

The manager of household or of household affairs – especially a steward, manager, superintendent (whether free-born as was

usually the case, a freed-man or a slave) to whom the head of the house or proprietor has intrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures, and the duty of dealing out the proper portion to every servant and even to the children not yet of age. (Thayer)

Matthew 24:45–46

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

1 Corinthians 4:1–2

¹ Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

B. The duty of this steward is "to give them their portion of meat in due season."

1. "Them" – the other servants under his care and authority
2. "Their portion of meat"
 - a) Literally, he was responsible for providing their food, and for taking care that it wasn't all consumed too early ("portion") – these servants truly relied on him for their very physical existence.
 - b) Spiritually, this is the duty of the pastor or teacher in the church – as a steward of the "food" of the Word of God, the bread of life,

it is our duty, our job, to make sure there is provision enough to sustain the spiritual life of the believer, of the servant of God.

3. "In due season" – at the appointed time for distributing rations (literal meaning) – you can draw the analogy here for church attendance as being the "due season" when the "food" (in this case, spiritual food) is distributed.

C. The key is found in verse 43 where it states that the truly blessed steward is the one that is found "so doing" when the Lord comes back – the one found simply doing what he is supposed to be doing.

D. Verse 44 – The promise to this steward is a position of ruling in heaven with Christ – more than likely is speaking of the Millennial Reign where we will rule and reign with Christ, and where, as I have said before, I believe that our works for the Lord here will be the deciding factor in our position then.

II. IT IS HIS WILL WE WAIT – VS. 45-46

A. Wait patiently – vs. 45 – this is taught in a negative way, pointing to the one who was not patient, and did not do what he was supposed to do simply because the Lord did not return in a timely manner.

B. Wait properly – vs. 45 – the proper way to wait for the Lord is to be found "so doing" as given in verse 43 – this wicked steward didn't do that.

1. Again, taught in a negative manner
2. This wicked steward wasn't prepared for the Lord's return because he wasn't watching, he wasn't expecting it.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

² For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

³ For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Revelation 16:15

¹⁵ Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

3. And the reality for him was he was sent to the place of the unbeliever – he was sent to hell because his heart wasn't prepared. He may have been preaching but he wasn't preaching truth as God would have it preached. He may have been teaching a Sunday School class, but he wasn't teaching it truth as God would have it taught.

III. IT IS HIS WILL WE ARE WORTHY – VS. 47-48

A. This is not speaking of a saved person, just someone who said they were – there are many that will have done religious work in the Lord's name but are not worthy of heaven – Matt. 7.

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,

shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

B. It is our duty to be worthy of the true mark of a disciple.

C. Vs. 47 –

1. "That servant, which knew his lord's will" – he knew what the Bible said but didn't care to follow it.
2. "And prepared not himself" – didn't really believe that God meant what He said about hell. He didn't really believe that anyone would go to hell.
3. "Neither did according to his will" – not only didn't he prepare himself for eternity, he led many to follow him.

D. The latter part of verse 47 and the first part of verse 48, refer to the stripes that will be received for those that don't do things God's way – the wicked servants.

1. For those that have had a knowledge of truth but don't follow it, their punishment will be greater – "many stripes."

2. For those that have not had the privileges of hearing the way we have will still pay the ultimate price of separation from God, but their punishment will be less than those that knew better but didn't care – "few stripes." This text seems to teach that there will be different degrees of suffering in hell.

Matthew 11:22–24

22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

E. The latter part of verse 48 is sad indeed – "to whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."

The subject of the 47th and 48th verses has been greatly misunderstood, and has been used in a very dangerous manner. Many have thought that their ignorance of Divine things would be a sufficient excuse for their crimes; and, that they might have but few stripes, they voluntarily continued in ignorance. But such persons should know that God will judge them for the knowledge they might have received, but refused to acquire. No criminal is excused because he has been ignorant of the laws of his country, and so transgressed them, when it can be proved that those very

laws have been published throughout the land. Much knowledge is a dangerous thing if it be not improved; as this will greatly aggravate the condemnation of its possessor. Nor will it avail a person, in the land of light and information, to be ignorant, as he shall be judged for what he might have known; and, perhaps, in this case, the punishment of this voluntarily ignorant man will be even greater than that of the more enlightened; because his crimes are aggravated by this consideration, that he refused to have the light, that he might neither be obliged to walk in the light, nor account for the possession of it. So we find that the plea of ignorance is a mere refuge of lies, and none can plead it who has the book of God within his reach, and lives in a country blessed with the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Adam Clarke)

Conclusion: How have we done at knowing our Lord's will, and "doing" it? That is the key to this passage. How we answer that one question will show how close to the Lord we really are.