

05072023 Jesus has spent much of the 12th chapter of Luke's Gospel reassuring and encouraging his disciples as they endure the increasing threats and accusations from the religious leadership. Especially as Jesus tells the religious leaders they have no place in his Kingdom...

Which goes directly contrary to what the Pharisees and religious leaders' expectations of their roles in the messiah's Kingdom. They had expectations of the Messiah, that he would be an earthly King over all nations, and the nation of Israel would be the head nation.

And they had expectation that their role in His Kingdom, being the religious and nations governing leaders...who would hold the highest positions enforcing the faith, while exercising religious oversight while governing the nations..... Jesus basically let them know this would never happen...as their hearts were far from God and because they greatly misrepresented him. And Jesus condemns them for this...then Jesus in the set of verses we will be studying today addresses the requirements of his disciples

But Peter was not sure who Jesus was addressing at this point... so he asks...

NLT **LK 12:** ⁴¹ Peter asked, "Lord, is that illustration just for us or for everyone?"

- **There is a huge difference between a fan of Jesus and a follower of Jesus...a follower of Jesus serves Jesus...**

Jesus responds...

NLT **LK 12:** ⁴² And the Lord replied, "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. ⁴³ If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. ⁴⁴ I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns.

- **Faithfulness is not an option we choose out of many options we choose in regards to Jesus. Jesus expects us to be faithful to Him,**

and He seeks men and women who will live to consistently carry out His will.

- It is commitment to him and his cause... it is Faithfulness and faithfulness means to be loyal and diligent. and that is what Jesus said to his disciples...your commitment is to me...not to your expectations...
- Why would he say this? Because they also had expectations of Jesus and his Kingdom...But Jesus said to his disciples...your commitment is to me...not to your expectations...

That my friends is not easy to do...nor for the faint of heart...for there are many obstacles...one of them being...Jesus designed Delays...

NLT Luke 12: 45 But what if the servant thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? NLT Luke 12:46 The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful. 47 "And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn't prepared and doesn't carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. 48 But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly.

- **First of all the idea of beating ANYONE is repugnant.** Let's not judge Jesus' words by Twenty-First Century values, but by standards of his time. Using rods to punish was extremely common.
- **Fathers would discipline their children with a rod; masters would discipline their servants with a rod. Punishment of criminals would sometimes be with a rod or whip. (For example, see**

Deuteronomy 25:2-3; Psalm 89:32, Proverbs 10:13; 13:24; 14:3; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15; and Hebrews 12:10-11.)

- **It was a common and acceptable practice for training... This**
- **Discipline was not designed for cruelty, but for instruction.**
- **Notice the element of delay** in the master's return **that** was present in the parable "My master is won't be back for a while"
- **Jesus is preparing his disciples for a hurdle they will face in following and trusting Jesus and we also face... for a delay in his own return.**
- **The Greek word is *chronizo*, "to extend a state or an activity beyond an expected time, 'delay, take a long time**

In this instance the abusive head servant begins to beat his fellow servants. Instead of acting as a servant, the head servant is acting as the master and taking upon himself a master's prerogatives to discipline.

- He is indulging his whims. Moreover, the head servant has abandoned the self-discipline that got him appointed head servant in the first place.
- He gorges himself with food and wine, and goes about drunk rather than sober. His disappointment leads to abandonment in his loyalty.
- **Drunkenness is the direct opposite of the qualities of being wakeful and watching that the initial parables stressed (12:35-38).**
- **The unfaithful servant now lives for himself and not his master. He neglects his responsibilities toward his fellow servants, and, instead, looks to his own comfort and luxury, signaled by "eating and drinking."**
- **Paul writing to Timothy warns him of this very thing...**

NLT 1Tim1:19 *Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.*

- **Ship wrecked is not necessarily the end...but the ship must be rebuilt stronger to be able to handle the storms...**
- **If we are living for ourselves, we cannot at the same time be a faithful servant to the Master.** Something will be shipwrecked and must be rebuilt.

Jesus concludes with some pretty sobering words. A servant will be beaten in accordance with his knowledge of what his master wanted.

- **He will come under judgement like the unbelievers...as an unbeliever...a hypocrite...**
- **Go to Matthew for clarification...of why this will happen...they are hypocrites saying one thing doing another!**
- *NLT MT 24: 50* *The master will return unannounced and unexpected, ⁵¹ and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Who are the hypocrites?... he told us earlier...the Pharisees...the religious leaders who claimed to be right with God ...they will be cut out of the faithful and have no place with God...

NLT Matthew 23:15 *“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. **Hypocrites!** For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are!*

- **No matter the storm or the delay...Jesus is telling Peter he is very serious ...that while he is away his servants are to serve faithfully with integrity and wisdom...**
- **The servant who knows what his master wants is held responsible to take action**
- **Failure to do so...results in demotion and correction...**

The contrast ... faithfulness is rewarded with promotion

Luke 12:48b.....When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

- **Those who are capable to handle faithfully with what they have been given to handle...will grow in capacity to handle more and they will be given more to handle!**
- **Faithfulness applies to any situation – big or small. God will not reward you for the position or worldly success you attain but He will reward your faithfulness to use it well.**
- **Everyone does not have the same opportunities. Nor do we all have the same abilities. But we all have something. We have the capacity to be faithful in now.**

And here is the clincher...he is telling Peter and the other disciples...the unfaithful to Jesus never belonged to him to begin with...think Judas!

NLT Matt 25:31 “But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. ³² All the nations^[e] will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the

people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

- **Notice that everyone claiming to be a sheep is not one...there are goats mixed in...they were never sheep...though they are often raised together.**

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

³⁷ “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters,^[1] you were doing it to me!’

- **What stands out is that they were faithfully doing the works of Jesus...what he did...**
- **In Fact It was such a part of their lives because it was in their hearts to do it...they obviously do many other things and did not consider these small acts of love and kindness a big deal...and were surprised Jesus would consider these acts of kindness as doing it personally to him.**
- *Interestingly what we consider little, Jesus considers much...from that perspective We all have been given much ...*

➤ I think of the David, the shepherd boy from Bethlehem, who, the Scripture declares,

I want to be a faithful servant...I want to be trustworthy among men, and trusted by my God.

But I have failed perfection. I have sinned. Yet I struggle to rise to my own expectations of myself and fulfill the dreams I believe God has put in my heart.

I believe You, too, desire for God to use you. You have received much from the Master, and it is now in your hands to do with it what you can. To prepare for his coming.

Keep Your heart set on the Lord, and he is leading you to do something important for him, but don't base that importance on what you deem important...but on what he deems important.

Mark 9:41 If anyone gives you even a **cup of water** because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.

My dear fellow servants. I encourage you as I encourage myself with the words of Christ:

Nlt Luke 12:38 He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn.^[d] But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.

- He may come when it is darkest...or he may not... you may feel abandoned or buried but perhaps you have been planted there for a purpose of bringing light
- He may come when the sun is dawning...and I have made it through the dark night...or he may not

- But when he comes. He will reward the servants who are still serving while also expecting his return.
- But know this that he will come when we do not expect it...moral here...a servant of God serves period...

Be about Kingdom business

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Be dressed for service .

Keep your lamps burning.

Be watching for him to return, he brings his reward.

Even if he is delayed, stay loyal.

Be a faithful and wise manager.

Serve those under your care.

God has given you much.

Be worthy of that trust he has in you.

end



- God actively looks for faithfulness in His servants.
- Fulfilling his word...that he will come when they did not expect it...moral here...a servant of God serves period...
- Faithfulness applies to any situation – big or small. God will not reward you for the position or worldly success you attain but He will reward your faithfulness to do what He has called you to do.
- Faithfulness is one of those god-like traits. God is faithful, and we appreciate the effect His faithfulness has on us: we can rely upon Him. Because we appreciate reliability in others we begin trying to be more reliable ourselves. Reliability gradually becomes one of our characteristics. What was unrighteousness in us gradually becomes God's righteousness in us. It is this growth, or maturation, process that the New Testament elsewhere describes as our "new creature," our new way of thinking, living, and being god-like.

end

- The steward that Jesus holds up for acclaim is not doing something particularly flashy or creative. He is just continuing to do his duty, day after day, without fail, without forgetting, without unexplained lapses. His virtue is faithfulness. You can count on him.

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The animosity was such that in verse 4 of the 12th chapter of Luke, Jesus says to his disciples; "I tell you, my friends, **do not fear those who kill the body**, and after that can do nothing more," and then in verse 22, Jesus says; "Therefore, I tell you, **do not worry about your life**," and again in verse 32, Jesus says; "**Do not be afraid**, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

- **Now he tells them what he expect of them...as his followers...be about the business of God...and remain loyal to Jesus...**

NLT LK 12:35 "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. "

That my friends is not easy to do...nor for the faint of heart...for there are many obstacles...one of them being

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- **So the idea of beating ANYONE is repugnant. Let's not judge Jesus' words by Twenty-First Century values, but by standards of his time. Using rods to punish was extremely common.**
- **Fathers would discipline their children with a rod; masters would discipline their servants with a rod. Punishment of criminals would sometimes be with a rod or whip. (For example, see Deuteronomy 25:2-3; Psalm 89:32, Proverbs 10:13; 13:24; 14:3; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15; and Hebrews 12:10-11.) Discipline was not designed for cruelty, but for instruction.**
- **It was a common and acceptable practice for training...**
- **Notice the element of delay in the master's return **that** was present in the parable "My master is taking a long time in coming"Jesus is preparing his disciples for a delay in his own return. The Greek word is *chronizo*, "to extend a state or an activity beyond an expected time, 'delay, take a long time**

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Jesus is telling Peter he is very serious ...that while he is away his servants are to serve faithfully with integrity and wisdom... Failure to do so...results in demotion...

The servant who knows what his master wants is held responsible to take action. If he doesn't believe his master, that doesn't alleviate his punishment

The contrast ... faithfulness is rewarded with promotion

Luke 12:48b.....When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

- **Those who are capable to handle what they have been given to handle...will grow in capacity to handle more!**
- **The steward that Jesus holds up for acclaim is not doing something particularly flashy or creative. He is just continuing to do his duty, day after day, without fail, without forgetting, without unexplained lapses. His virtue is faithfulness. You can count on him.**
- **Faithfulness applies to any situation – big or small. God will not reward you for the position or worldly success you attain but He will reward your faithfulness to do what He has called you to do.**
- **Everyone does not have the same opportunities. Nor do we all have the same abilities. But we all have something. We have the capacity to be faithful in our own condition (Matt. 25:14-30).**

And here is the clincher...the unfaithful to Jesus never belonged to him to begin with...as Mathew tells us...

NLT Matt 25:31 “But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. ³² All the nations^[e] will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

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- **What stands out is that they were faithfully doing the works of Jesus...what he did...**
- **It was such a part of their lives that they did not think it stood out ...it just what we do they responded ...nothing more nothing less...we serve..**

- Everyone does not have the same opportunities. Nor do we all have the same abilities. But we all have something. We have the capacity to be faithful in our own sphere of influence....

My dear fellow servants. I encourage you as I encourage myself with the words of Christ:

Be dressed for service .

Keep your lamps burning.

Be watching for him to return, he brings his reward.

Even if he is delayed, stay loyal.

Be a faithful and wise manager.

Serve those under your care.

God has given you much.

Be worthy of that trust he has in you.

May we say like Caleb did.. *JOS 14: 11* *I am as strong now as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then. end*

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- Faithfulness applies to any situation – big or small. God will not reward you for the position or worldly success you attain but He will reward your faithfulness to do what He has called you to do.
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be more reliable ourselves. Reliability gradually becomes one of our characteristics. What was unrighteousness in us gradually becomes God's righteousness in us. It is this growth, or maturation, process that the New Testament elsewhere describes as our "new creature," our new way of thinking, living, and being god-like.

⁴¹ “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.’^[g] ⁴² For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’

⁴⁵ “And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’

⁴⁶ “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

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⁴⁷ “And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn’t prepared and doesn’t carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. ⁴⁸ But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required

Jesus concludes with some pretty sobering words. A servant will be beaten in accordance with his knowledge of what his master wanted. The Greek verb here is *dero*, "originally, 'skin, flay,' but in our literature only in imagery, 'beat, whip.' "[12] America is awash with the theory that corporal punishment of children is equal to child abuse. So the idea of beating ANYONE is repugnant. Let's not judge Jesus' words by Twenty-First Century values, but by standards of his time. Using rods to punish was extremely common.

- Fathers would discipline their children with a rod; masters would discipline their servants with a rod. Punishment of criminals would sometimes be with a rod or whip. (For example, see Deuteronomy 25:2-3; Psalm 89:32, Proverbs 10:13; 13:24; 14:3; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15; and Hebrews 12:10-11.) **Discipline was not designed for cruelty, but for instruction.**
- The servant who knows what his master wants is held responsible to take action. If he doesn't believe his master, that doesn't alleviate his punishment.
- He knew it and refused to believe it and act upon it. What the servant is expected to do in Jesus' words is to "get ready." The Greek verb is *hetoimazo*, "to cause to be ready, 'put/keep in readiness, prepare.'" [13]
- Servants, disciples are responsible for what they have been told, and must use that knowledge to prepare themselves for what is to come.

To Whom Much is Given, Much Is Demanded (12:48b)

If verses 12:47-48a explain the concept of relative responsibility for punishment, then vs. 12:48b summarizes the concept into a principle.

^{48B....} When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required