

MATTHEW 24:42-51

Before going to Calvary, Jesus taught on watchfulness and His coming again. Why? Because He understood human behavior. He knew a persons' view of the future would influence his behavior in the present. In this parable, Jesus reveals two mind-sets that exist among servants. The first is Jesus can return any moment. The second is Jesus' return is a long way off. Those in the first group are wise and faithful. Those in the second are referred to as evil.

THE WISE AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

1. Views himself as a servant. **ROMANS 6:22**
 - A. If we've been made free from sin, then we are servants to God.
2. Lives as though Jesus can return any moment.
 - A. **TITUS 2:11-13** – He lives soberly, righteously and godly, while looking expectantly for his master's return.
3. Puts forth effort to resist sin.
 - A. **GENESIS 39:7-9, 41:37-40** – Joseph was faithful to God and man. His character and conduct resulted in his being promoted.
 - B. **1 JOHN 3:2-4** – Joseph's dream motivated him to faithfully serve. Our dream to be as Christ should motivate our service.
4. Is vigilant to do what's expected of him.
 - A. Get baptized in water and in the Spirit. **ACTS 19:1-6**
 - B. Assemble with believers regularly. **HEBREWS 10:24-25**
 - C. Financially support God's work: Tithe, offerings, poor, love giving.
 - D. Witness for Jesus. **2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21**
5. Serves faithfully until his master comes.
 - A. **ECCLESIASTES 9:10** – Do whatever we can do.
 - B. **JOHN 17:4-5**

THE EVIL SERVANT

1. Was presumptuous, thinking he had plenty of time.
 - A. **2 CORINTHIAN 6:1-2, JAMES 4:14** – Compared to eternity, time on earth is short.
2. Refused to walk in love.
 - A. **1 PETER 1:22** – Fervently means passionately and enthusiastically.
3. Gravitated toward worldly living.
 - A. **EXODUS 32:1-8** – It's easy to develop this mind-set.
 - B. **2 PETER 2:19-22 (NLT)**
4. Will be judged severely.
 - A. He's cut off and appointed his portion with the hypocrites.

THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE

1. We all should live with a sense of urgency. Jesus can return any moment. When He comes, there won't be time to make things right. **2 PETER 3:10-13**
2. Associate with people of like precious faith. The evil servant associated with the wrong crowd. **1 CORINTHIANS 15:32-34**
3. Indifference is dangerous. The evil servant was apathetic. He wasn't interested or concerned about his masters' return.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus is coming as a thief in the night when no one will expect Him. Are we ready? Are we serving Him faithfully?