

## Parables of Jesus part 4

*Various Scriptures*

*Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? -Luke 12:41-48*

**How would you describe someone who is faithful?**

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Biblically speaking, faithful comes from the Greek word pistos, which is derived from another Greek word peitho that means “persuaded”.

\*Reliable; Trust \_\_\_\_\_

\*Believing

“Nothing is more attractive than loyalty” -Anonymous

### **Parable of the Faithful Steward: Luke 12:41-48**

While Jesus was talking about the expectant steward, Peter asks if the parable was for them, meaning the disciples, or all the people. Instead of answering his question directly, Jesus tells another parable.

The key to answering/understanding the parable is found in the answer to Jesus’ question: Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?

**What distinguishes the faithful and wise manager?** James 4:17; John 13:17

Notice the 4 kinds of stewards:

#1 One who knows what he should do, and does the right thing: verses 43-44

This servant is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for being found doing the right thing.

#2 One who knows what he should do, but does the wrong thing: verses 45-46

What was this steward’s first mistake? An unguarded \_\_\_\_\_. Jeremiah

17:9 Because his heart is not in the right place, his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ followed suit. He turns to abuse; physical and substance.

Unlike the first steward he is demoted and destroyed.

**What would you do if you hired a caretaker to watch your house and children while you left for a vacation, and you came back early to find your caretaker had neglected your kids, had a big party and trashed your house?**

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#3 One who knows what he should do, but does nothing at all: verse 47

This steward did absolutely \_\_\_\_\_. Since he knew better and didn't do better he was disciplined with the rod. Leviticus 10:1-3; Proverbs 3:12; Matthew 24:18

#4 One who does not know what he should do, and does the wrong thing: verse 48

Although this steward did not know, he was still disciplined just not as \_\_\_\_\_ as the one who should have known and done better. Psalm 94:12; Revelation 3:19

As God's people we will be given increased opportunities and responsibilities. The more resources, ability and understanding we have the more we will be required to use them effectively for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. All of us have been given gifts to steward and use until Christ comes back, but the question is what kind of steward will He find in us? Do you know your master's will?

**As we reflect on these stewards, would you try to know better or would you prefer not to know as much so you won't be punished more severely? Why or why not?**

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### **Parable of the Unfruitful Fig Tree: Luke 13:6-9**

The context of this parable is found in the previous verses 1-5. Here Jesus mentions \_\_\_\_\_ disasters that were well known in His day. The first was at the hands of Pilate and the second was a natural disaster where the tower of Siloam fell and killed 18 people. The point Jesus makes here is, it's not why are these things happening?, but since good people and bad people die; what does it mean to you?

For example, in 2020 we were constantly reminded of the total number of people who had died from Covid #19; in light of eternity, the issue is not how many people have died, but rather, do you know the Lord Jesus Christ in the pardon of your sins?

Hence Jesus says, but unless you \_\_\_\_\_ you will all likewise perish.

To illustrate some principles regarding God's judgment He tells this parable:

### **God looks for fruit: Luke 6:6**

God is likened to the owner who had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. As time went on the owner looked for fruit. So it is with you and I, just like the fig tree is supposed to produce fruit, God's people should also bear the fruit of the Spirit. There should be proof that we are who we say we are. Galatians 5:22-23

### **God is Just: Luke 6:7**

In this verse, the owner has been patiently waiting for 3 years to see some fruit on the fig tree. According to the law they were commanded not to eat any fruit for 5 years. Leviticus 19:23-25

In this instance it had been 3 years and nothing happened so even if the tree would had blossomed next year he would still have to wait another 4 years just to enjoy the fruit. That 9 years was considered a waste of soil when something else could be growing and producing crop on the land.

Notice the connection between these phrases: “Unless you repent” vs. “Chop it down!” Not only that, but chop it down is something we would expect to hear from any owner who is not getting what he expected from the barren fig tree.

**If God decided to judge/destroy the earth today would He be wrong? Why or why not?**

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*God is gracious Luke 6:8-9*

In verse 7 we were introduced to the vineyard worker who is likened to Jesus Christ. After the owner suggest to get rid of the fig tree, the vineyard worker petitioned the owner on behalf of the tree. Romans 8:34

**Here it is:**

- \*We all like the barren fig tree deserved to be cut down
- \*Jesus steps in and performs the work on our behalf by dying on the cross for our sins
- \*He petitions God to be patient with us
- \*Judgement is coming

**As you consider this parable, is it more surprising that the owner wants to cut down the tree? Or that the gardener wants to give it another year?**

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**In light of God’s imminent judgement, how will you encourage yourself and other believer’s to repent and bear the fruit of the Spirit?**

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**“In God’s garden of grace, even a broken tree can bear fruit.” -  
Rick Warren**