**THE PARABLE OF THE UNFAITHFUL SERVANT – LUKE 12:41-48**

**THE PARABLES OF JESUS #6**

Today our study in the “Parables of Jesus” moves into future rewards or lack thereof for the believer in Jesus Christ. This parable in Luke 12 has the imagery of a Master and his servants. In the description of the reward and punishment aspect of the parable, it’s important to stress the lesson not the specifics. Remember that parables are intended to teach. In some parables, it is important to realize that specifics in the story do not necessarily carry over into the specifics of what Jesus is teaching. We will explain that as we go on. We begin with:

1. **Two parables in one – Luke 12:31-40.** The basis for the parable that we will be specifically looking at today comes out of another parable that Jesus is speaking. In this first parable, we will see specifics in the parable that do have a future reality – vs. 31-40 -. This parable is speaking about what the faithful in Christ can expect at His coming. After the coming of Christ, believers will be treated to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb with Jesus serving them. What we find here is a combination of parable and direct teaching. Those who have overcome the come the world by virtue of a genuine salvation in Christ will be rewarded with this blessed event after Jesus comes.
2. **Peter’s inquiry leads to a second parable – vs. 41 -.** Peter wanted to know to whom Jesus was directing this first parable. Evidently Peter was enthralled with the idea of Jesus becoming the servant at this future feast. While Jesus will not specifically answer his question, He will add even more details when it comes to punishment and reward.
3. **The blessed servant – vs. 42-44 -.** These verses are talking about reward in the world to come for those who have been “faithful”. The Marriage Supper is for all believers but the rewards mentioned in these verses are for “faithful” believers. In other-words connected to how we lived here on earth during our lives. A “faithful and wise steward” of Jesus Christ will be faithful in their living and service and will Scripturally wise about the direction of their lives. A life like that will be rewarded with a greater privileges and blessings in the world to come. It is quite likely that multitudes of Christians living today and have given in to this watered down world of opinions and feelings, will miss out on these specific rewards for the faithful. Christians who engage only casually in their Christian lives will not be counted as faithful.
4. **The plight of the unbeliever – vs. 45-47 -.** It is important again to see the blend of parable and direct teaching in these verses. The thrust of this parable is the right of a master to issue both reward and punishment to his servants. Jesus is teaching that He as God also has the right of reward and punishment and all His subjects. The “servants” in this verse are not believers. These are those who have rejected the authority of the Master and His teachings and live a wicked and ungodly life. They do not believe nor do they look for His coming. These are those who have all the knowledge they will ever need and yet reject it. For that they will face severe punishment – vs. 46 -. The parable aspect is that of the earthly master and servant while the direct teaching is based on the last part of **verse 46 – “and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers”**. The part about being “sawn in sunder” or in half again denotes the severity of judgment. Some may wonder why the severity? The answer is found in the severity of God’s wrath upon Christ on the cross. God graciously offers the severe judgment that we deserve to be placed on Christ. If we don’t that gift, then the severity meant for Christ will be meted out to the unsaved.

1. **Less knowledge, less severity – vs. 48a -.** In the previous verses we have seen the severity of judgment reserved for the servant who willfully rejected the authority and desire of the master. In this verse, we see another type of unsaved person. This unsaved person is one who lived a wicked life but did so without the knowledge of those who willfully rejected God. Their wicked life still makes them guilty in God’s sight and deserving of punishment but not with the severity of those who knew better. How this judgment is meted out in the next life, we do not know. We do know that judgment will take place for the unsaved. We also know that God is right and just to do so. If He didn’t, He wouldn’t be right and just.
2. **The key to the parable – vs. 48 – “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required”.** We find that reward and punishment is determined by every individual. To those who have full knowledge of the plans and teachings of God, it is they of whom much has been given. To reject God with full knowledge is to store up for oneself the righteous anger of God. This even has application for Christians. If we, with full knowledge of what the Bible teaches, still turn a blind eye to those things, we too risk the consequences of such weakness and foolishness. God requires us to make wise decisions based on the knowledge that we have - **“For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required”.**