

**Matthew 24:45-51**  
Faithful or Wicked?

*Entrusted servants ...*

- I. Over the Master's House
  - A. Faithful & Wise
  
  - B. Foolish & Wicked
- II. An Unexpected Visit
  - A. Delightful
  
  - B. Devastating
- III. And Consequences
  - A. Rewards
  
  - B. Retribution

*... in light of coming judgment.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. How were the two servants in Jesus' parable different?
2. How do you think they each felt when the master came to check on things?
3. What happened to them?
4. What does it mean to be faithful to the Lord?

**Entrusted with Much**

We have been in the midst of a number of judgment-oriented teachings from Jesus in Matthew 24, and there's more to come. Each segment offers a unique angle. In today's passage the issue at hand in sum is faithfulness. Jesus' parable highlights two types of servants given responsibilities under their master. While the lesson applies in a broad sense to all professing believers it appears to specifically target those in leadership positions in the church. Considering the poor track record many of Israel's leaders had when it came to honoring God and their treatment of God's people, it stands to reason that Jesus would address the leaders of that day as well as all church leaders to follow. The Lord rewards faithfulness and punishes wickedness, and preachers, teachers and leaders within the church are subject to strict standards.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers,  
for you know that we who teach  
will be judged with greater strictness.

James 3:1