

THE PARABLE OF THE FAITHFUL AND UNFAITHFUL MANAGER: A STRONG WARNING — BE PREPARED LUKE 12:35–48

Introduction

Jesus was still dealing with the subject of men who want things — wealth and riches and plenty. He was still dealing with covetousness (Lk. 12:13-21; 12:22-34). The believer's mind is to be upon purity of life and service, not upon possessions and cares of this world. Jesus strongly warned: be prepared.

- I. The charge: be watching — be ready for the Lord's return (vv. 35-40).
- II. The parable of the manager (vv. 41-48).

I. *Luke 12:35–40 Jesus Christ's Return*

The charge — be watching, be ready for the Lord's return. Jesus shared a striking illustration. The picture was that of a Lord who had gone off to attend a great marriage celebration. His servants had been left behind to look after the household and to wait for his return. The servants should be full of joy and rejoicing for their master's privilege in celebrating the marriage. They may not be, but they should be, and they should be looking after everything with all diligence until he returns. Jesus took the picture and applied it to Himself and His disciples.

The believer is to be in a state of readiness. He is always to be prepared, always watching and waiting for his Lord's return.

- => He is to be fully dressed, even to having his belt tight around his waist. This refers to personal preparation: purity of heart and life and keeping one's body ready to move and meet the Lord. In the East men wore robes that had to be tied with a belt at the waist or else the loose robes hampered movement and work. It was impossible to move quickly and freely without the belt being tight.
- => The Lord's servant is to have the lights burning, never allowing them to go out. Keeping the lights burning refers to serving and labouring for the Lord. He is to keep the lights of labour burning by faithfully serving and working for the Lord.

The idea with both the belt and the light is, of course, *readiness*: being prepared in body and labour, being pure and faithful. The believer must never lie down or slumber, never be caught off guard or unprepared. Jesus gave six reasons for living in a state of readiness, of purity and faithfulness.

1. The believer is to stay ready because the Lord is returning. He is the Head of the house; He owns the property. He did not desert the house and the property. He left
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to attend a great marriage feast. He will be returning to *His home and His property* (world). Note: the word “your” is emphatic (v. 35). No matter what others may do, “be dressed... your lamps” must be prepared. You must be like men who wait and stay awake and look and are prepared for their Lord. You must be *ready* to open the door *immediately* when He knocks, for He is going to return and knock. His return is an absolute certainty (see Jn. 14:2-3; Tit. 2:12-13).

Mark 14:61-62 *But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”*

Luke 21:27 *“At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”*

Acts 1:11 *“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*

1 Th 4:13-18 *Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

Heb 9:28 *So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

Thought 1. There is a message on salvation here as well. A person must be ready to open the door of his heart immediately when Jesus knocks.

Rev 3:20 *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

2. The believer is to stay ready because he will be served by Christ Himself. This is a most precious and wonderful promise, a most unusual promise. Imagine the Lord of the universe *servicing* us at a banquet, yet it is the promise made by Jesus! Why would such a promise be made to the believer?

God has only one Son, and God loves His only Son *so much* that He promises to elevate to the highest position any man who honours His Son. Any man who honours God's Son will be highly honoured by God.

John 12:26 *“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.”*

The person who honours God's Son is adopted as a child of God's, and that person becomes a brother to Christ and an heir of God.

Gal 4:4-7 *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*

Rom 8:15-18 *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

John 14:2-3 *“In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

1 Cor 4:5 *Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.*

3. The believer is to stay ready because the very thing for which he has been working is Christ's return. When Christ gathers us all together, His heart will be so overflowing with love and joy (as will ours) that He will begin serving us immediately: conforming us to His image, explaining and discussing everything with us, assigning us our eternal duties.

Phil 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

Col 3:4 *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

1 Th 3:13 *May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.*

1 John 3:2 *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*

4. The believer is to stay ready because he will be blessed. The phrase “it will be good” (makarioi) means to pronounce a person happy or blessed. The idea is that Christ is going to make the believer happy and blessed. Happiness and blessedness will become a state of being, the constant experience of the believer. But note two points.
 - a. It is conditional. The believer must be watching and ready for the Lord’s coming (pure and faithful) if he is to be blessed.
 - b. The Lord is not returning in the first watch. His return is going to be in the second or third watch. The night was divided into four watches by the Romans and into three watches by the Jews. The point is the importance of being ready: the hour of His return is unknown, but He is returning. It may be immediately; it may be later. The idea is that no one knows the time, but be ready — be prepared — if you wish to be blessed.

Phil 4:5 *Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.*

James 5:8 *You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.*

Rev 3:11 *I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

5. The believer is to stay ready because Christ will come unexpectedly. The parable is clear: the hour of the Lord’s return is not known; His return is going to be unexpected. The believer...
 - must not be careless: get tired of waiting up, get sleepy, be caught off guard, begin to disbelieve. (All of this can happen to a house owner waiting on a burglar.)
 - must watch: secure, sit up, stay awake, listen, look, take notice of all noises and sights (signs). (The burglar always comes in an unexpected hour.)

The believer must watch and be prepared as much as a house owner would watch and prepare if he knew a burglar were coming.

Mat 24:27 *For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

Mat 24:36 *“No one knows about that day or hour; not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”*

Mark 13:35 *“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back — whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.”*

6. The believer is to stay ready because Christ will come when least expected. Jesus could not have stated it any clearer; He could not have spoken any plainer. “When

you do not expect him,” He will come. He will be coming when we least expect Him to come. “You must also be ready.”

Mat 24:44 “So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Mat 25:10-13 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” (see v. 6-9)

1 Th 5:2 For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

Rev 3:3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

Rev 16:15 “Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

II. **Luke 12:041–48** *Manager: Dedication and Faithfulness vs. Unfaithfulness; Degrees of Rewards and Punishment*

The parable of the manager.

1. Peter wanted to know if the message on *watching and readiness* was for the disciples only or did it apply to the world as well. Jesus answered by giving a parable known as the parable of the manager.
2. There was a faithful and wise manager. Jesus said four things about this manager.
 - a. He was a manager. A manager was just what Jesus said he was: a man who was made ruler over his Lord’s household. He was the manager of the Lord’s estate, responsible for all of it.

Mat 25:14-15 “Again, it will be like a man [Christ] going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.”

Luke 19:13 “So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’”

- b. He was a slave or servant (doulos), a bond-slave, a man under the Lord’s will entirely. He was possessed by the Lord and his very life depended upon doing everything the Lord said (See *Servant, Slave*, Rom. 1:1).

- c. He was found “doing,” that is, serving faithfully when the Lord returned. The Lord found him doing exactly what he should have been doing (1 Cor. 4:2).

⇒ He was overseeing the Master’s household.

1 Cor 6:20 You were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

Eph 6:7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 Tim 6:20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge.

2 Tim 1:14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

1 Pet 5:2-3 Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

⇒ He was feeding the Master’s family faithfully.

John 21:15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” (see v. 16-17)

1 Cor 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1 Tim 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Pet 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.

- d. He was to be rewarded, made ruler and put in charge of that the Lord had. The idea is that the faithful and wise believer will be placed as highly as he can be placed. He will be given all that the Master and Lord has, that is, a complete estate to manage (See Lk. 16:10-12; 19:15-23; 22:28-30).

Mat 25:23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

Mat 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”

Luke 6:35 “But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”

Luke 19:17 “‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’”

Luke 22:28-29 “You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me.”

Rom 5:17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 6:2 Do you not know that the saints will judge [rule, have authority over] the world?

2 Tim 2:12 If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.

Rev 1:5-6 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Rev 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Rev 22:5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

3. There was an unfaithful, an unwise manager. Jesus said three things about this manager.
 - a. The unfaithful manager said there is *plenty of time*. Why? Because the Lord had delayed His coming; therefore, the manager thought the Lord’s return was a long way off. Note: he did not doubt the Lord’s return. He knew the Lord was returning, but he did not think it would be soon.

Luke 12:19 And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”

Acts 24:25 *As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you."*

James 4:13-14 *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*

Prov 27:1 *Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.*

Isa 56:12 *"Come," each one cries, "let me get wine! Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better."*

- b. He did his own will, his own thing. He mistreated and abused others, both male and female, using and misusing, deceiving and taking advantage as he willed. And he lived a worldly life, indulging in the fleshly pleasures of partying and carousing, eating and drinking.

Luke 8:14 *"The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature."*

Luke 16:10 *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."*

1 Tim 5:6 *But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.*

2 Tim 3:1-4 *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.*

Titus 3:3 *At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.*

James 5:5 *You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.*

2 Pet 2:13 *They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, revelling in their pleasures while they feast with you.*

Deu 24:14 *Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns.*

Psa 62:10 *Do not trust in extortion or take pride in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.*

Psa 82:2 “How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked?”

Prov 3:31 Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways.

Prov 14:31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.

Prov 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich — both come to poverty.

Eccl 5:8 If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still.

c. He was to be judged with the unbelievers. The Lord was very clear about this.

=> The unfaithful manager will be caught by the Lord, caught *unaware*, “in a day when he does not expect Him.”

Luke 21:34-35 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.”

Eccl 9:12 Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.

Mat 24:38-39 “For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”

=> The Lord will “cut him to pieces.” This means he will be condemned to death, cut off from among the living, exiled from eternal life. Most tragic, he will be *cut to pieces*, *cut off* from God’s presence.

=> The Lord will assign him a place with the unbelievers. Why? Because he was not genuine. He was a hypocrite.

Mat 24:51 “He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Job 20:23, 27-29 When he has filled his belly, God will vent his burning anger against him and rain down his blows upon him.... The heavens will expose his guilt; the earth will rise up against him. A flood will carry off his house, rushing waters on the day of God’s wrath. Such is the fate God allots the wicked, the heritage appointed for them by God.”

Psa 11:6 On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulphur; a scorching wind will be their lot.

Jer 13:25-27 *“This is your lot, the portion I have decreed for you,” declares the Lord, “because you have forgotten me and trusted in false gods. I will pull up your skirts over your face that your shame may be seen — your adulteries and lustful neighings, your shameless prostitution! I have seen your detestable acts on the hills and in the fields. Woe to you, O Jerusalem! How long will you be unclean?”*

4. There was the unfaithful manager identified. Note that Jesus answered Peter’s question in these two verses. He was speaking to both believers and unbelievers. Who is to be watching and living in a state of readiness? Who is to be served by Christ and greatly blessed? The answer is clear: the faithful manager, not the unfaithful manager. Who then is the unfaithful manager? There are two classes named:
 - a. Class 1: the *servant* who knew the Lord’s will and did not prepare himself (v. 35), nor did he do the Lord’s will (see 1 Jn. 3:23). This servant’s judgment is tragic, for he knew God’s will, but deliberately rejected it. Therefore, he will be beaten with many blows, that is, due much more judgment and punishment.

Mat 25:46 *“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”* (see vv. 25-45)

Mark 3:29 *“But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.”*

Luke 3:17 *“His [Christ’s] winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*

Rom 2:8-9 *But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*

2 Th 1:7-9 *And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.*

Heb 10:29-30 *How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.”*

2 Pet 2:9 *If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

Rev 20:15 *If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Rev 21:8 *“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.”*

- b. Class 2: the men who did not know the Lord's will; therefore, they were not able to prepare themselves as they should have, nor were they able to faithfully serve the Lord.

However, note a critical point. Even the managers committed things worthy of punishment. Therefore, they will be judged and condemned as well, but not as severely (see Rom. 1:20f; 2:11-16).

The principle of judgment is perfect justice: having many gifts and possessing much wealth means a person is to serve and give much. A person is to use and give all he is and has — holding nothing back. Note that degrees of rewards and punishment are being taught. ■

ROMANS 01:01 SERVANT, SLAVE (DOULOS)

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God. **Romans 01:01***

Paul was a “servant” or “slave” of Jesus Christ. The word “servant” or “slave” (doulos) means far more than just a servant. It means a slave totally possessed by the master. It is a *bond-servant* bound by law to a master.

A look at the slave market of Paul's day shows more clearly what Paul meant when he said he was a “slave of Jesus Christ.”

1. The slave was owned by his master; he was totally possessed by his master. This is what Paul meant. Paul was purchased and possessed by Christ. Christ had looked upon him and had seen his degraded and needful condition. And when Christ looked, the most wonderful thing happened: Christ loved him and bought him; therefore, he was now the possession of Christ.
2. The slave existed for his master and he had no other reason for existence. He had no personal rights whatsoever. The same was true with Paul: he existed only for Christ. His rights were the rights of Christ only.
3. The slave served his master and he existed only for the purpose of service. He was at the master's disposal any hour of the day or night. So it was with Paul: he lived only to serve Christ — hour by hour, day by day, and night by night.

4. The slave's will belonged to his master. He was allowed no will and no ambition other than the will and ambition of the master. He was completely subservient to the Master and owed total obedience to the will of the master. Paul belonged to Christ. In fact, he said that he fought and struggled to "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5).

5. There is a fifth and most precious thing that Paul meant by "a slave of Jesus Christ." He meant that he had the highest and most honoured and kingly profession in all the world. Men of God, the greatest men of history, have always been called "the servants of God." It was the highest title of honour. The believer's slavery to Jesus Christ is no cringing, cowardly, or shameful subjection. It is the position of honour — the honour that bestows upon a man the privileges and responsibilities of serving the King of kings and Lord of lords.

=> Moses was the slave of God (Deu. 34:5; Psa. 105:26; Mal. 4:4).

=> Joshua was the slave of God (Josh. 24:29).

=> David was the slave of God (2 Sam. 3:18; Psa. 78:70).

=> Paul was the slave of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Tit. 1:1).

=> James was the slave of God (Jas. 1:1).

=> Peter was the slave of Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:1).

=> Jude was the slave of God (Jude 1).

=> The prophets were the slaves of God (Amos 3:7; Jer. 7:25).

=> Christian believers are said to be the slaves of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:18; 1 Cor. 7:22; Eph. 6:6; Col. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:24).

(This point is built upon what William Barclay says in *The Letter to the Romans*. "The Daily Study Bible." Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1955, p. 2).

John 12:26 *"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me."*

Eph 6:6-7 *Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.*

Col 3:23-24 *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Heb 12:28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*

Exo 23:25 *Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you.*

Deu 10:12 *And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Psa 2:11 *Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.*

Psa 100:2 *Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. □*