

# Matthew 24:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

## Analysis

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**Who then is a faithful and wise servant**—Jesus shifts from warning to exhortation, using *pistos* (πιστός = faithful/trustworthy) and *phronimos* (φρόνιμος = wise/prudent), two essential stewardship qualities. The rhetorical question expects self-examination: 'Are you this servant?' **Whom his lord hath made ruler over his household** (*oiketeia*, οἰκετεία = household staff), entrusted with authority and responsibility.

**To give them meat in due season** (*trophē*, τροφή = nourishment; *en kairō*, ἐν καιρῷ = in proper time)—the steward's job is feeding the master's household at the right times with the right food. This pictures pastoral ministry (1 Peter 5:2), but applies to all Christian stewardship—using gifts, time, resources faithfully until the Master returns. Faithfulness means consistent service; wisdom means discerning what's needed when.

## Historical Context

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Large Roman and Jewish households employed estate managers (*oikonomos*) who controlled food distribution, finances, and staff. The master's absence tested stewardship—would servants work faithfully or exploit their position? Jesus uses this familiar dynamic to illustrate kingdom stewardship. Paul later uses identical imagery (1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Titus 1:7) for apostolic ministry.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. In what areas of life has God made you a 'steward'—responsibilities you'll give account for at Christ's return?
2. How do you balance faithfulness (consistency, obedience) with wisdom (discernment, adaptation) in your service?
3. What 'food in due season' are those under your spiritual care or influence currently needing?

## Interlinear Text

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Τίς ἄρα ἐστὶν ὁ πιστὸς δοῦλος καὶ φρόνιμος ὃν  
**Who** G687 **is** G3588 **a faithful** G4103 **servant** G1401 **and** G2532 **wise** G5429 **whom** G3739  
G5101 G2076

κατέστησεν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῖς ἐπὶ τῆς θεραπείας αὐτοῖς  
**hath made ruler** G2525 G3588 **lord** G2962 **his** G846 **over** G1909 G3588 **household** G2322 **his** G846

τοῦ διδόναι αὐτοῖς τὴν τροφήν ἐν καιρῷ  
G3588 **to give** G1325 **his** G846 G3588 **meat** G5160 **in** G1722 **due season** G2540

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 25:21** (Faith): His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

**Matthew 25:23** (Faith): His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

**Hebrews 3:5** (Faith): And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

**2 Timothy 2:2** (Faith): And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

**1 Timothy 1:12** (Faith): And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

**Revelation 2:13** (Faith): I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

**Acts 20:28** (Creation): Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

**Matthew 10:16** (Parallel theme): Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

**Matthew 13:52** (Parallel theme): Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

**Luke 19:17** (Faith): And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.