

Matthew 24:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

Analysis

And shall begin to smite his fellowservants—The evil servant's rebellion manifests in abusing authority: *typtō* (τύπτω = strike/beat) the syndoulos (συνδούλους = fellow-servants). The horizontal relationship reveals the vertical reality—abusing God's people proves false profession. **And to eat and drink with the drunken** (*esthiō kai pinō meta tōn methyontōn*, ἐσθίω καὶ πίνω μετὰ τῶν μεθύοντων)—he joins the world's indulgence, abandoning sobriety and watchfulness.

This describes false shepherds throughout church history—using office for self-indulgence, oppressing the flock, living like the world. The progression is: delayed parousia → heart rebellion → abuse of authority → worldly living. Jesus diagnoses the pattern before it happens, warning leaders (and all believers) that stewardship will be judged not by profession but by practice. The drunk are those unprepared for the master's return.

Historical Context

The Corinthian church exemplified this—divisions, abusing the Lord's Supper, getting drunk at love feasts (1 Corinthians 11:20-21). Jude and 2 Peter describe false teachers living sensually while denying the Lord. Church history records countless 'evil servants'—clergy abusing power, exploiting congregations. The warning applies to every generation: authority in Christ's absence is stewardship, not ownership; service, not dominance.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Where do you see modern examples of spiritual leaders 'smiting fellow-servants' through abuse of authority?
2. What forms of 'eating and drinking with the drunken' tempt Christian leaders today—worldly values, prosperity focus, political power?
3. How can you ensure that any authority you hold in Christian ministry is exercised as faithful stewardship, not personal dominion?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἄρξεται	τύπτειν	τοὺς	συνδούλους	ἐσθίειν	δὲ	καὶ
And	shall begin	to smite	G3588	his fellowservants	to eat	and	And
G2532	G756	G5180		G4889	G2068	G1161	G2532
πίνειν	μετὰ	τῶν	μεθυόντων				
drink	with	G3588	the drunken				
G4095	G3326		G3184				

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 17:6 (Parallel theme): And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Revelation 16:6 (Parallel theme): For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Matthew 7:15 (Parallel theme): Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Micah 3:5 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

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