

# Matthew 24:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**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 μεθυόντων)—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

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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

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

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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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

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καὶ ἄρξηται 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

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**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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