

Matthew 25:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Well done, good and faithful servant—Eu, doule agathe kai piste (Εὖ, δοῦλε ἀγαθὲ καὶ πιστέ): 'Well [done], good and faithful slave.' Agathos (ἀγαθός) denotes intrinsic moral goodness, pistos (πιστός) means trustworthy/reliable. God evaluates character, not just productivity. Note: He doesn't say 'successful' or 'talented'—He says faithful.

Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things—The principle: present faithfulness qualifies for future authority. Epi oligōn ēs pistos, epi pollōn se katastēsō (ἐπὶ ὀλίγων ἢς πιστός, ἐπὶ πολλῶν σε καταστήσω) connects earthly stewardship to eternal reward. **Enter thou into the joy of thy lord**—Eiselthe eis tēn charan tou kyriou sou (εἰσελθε εἰς τὴν χαρὰν τοῦ κυρίου σου): entrance into the master's celebration, sharing his victory feast.

Historical Context

In Roman society, faithful slaves could be promoted to estate managers, freedmen, or even business partners. Jesus uses this familiar progression to illustrate eternal rewards: present faithfulness in small matters qualifies believers to reign with Christ in His millennial kingdom (Rev 20:6) and eternal state. The 'joy' refers to the messianic banquet (Matt 8:11, 22:1-14).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Does 'Well done, good and faithful servant' motivate you more than earthly applause or success?
2. How are you stewarding 'few things' now to prove fitness for 'many things' in eternity?
3. Do you long for entrance into Christ's joy, or are you satisfied with lesser pleasures?

Interlinear Text

ἔφη	αὐτοῦ	ὁ	κυρίου	αὐτοῦ	Εὖ	δοῦλε	ἀγαθὲ	καὶ
said	His	G3588	lord	His	Well done	servant	good	and
G5346	G846		G2962	G846	G2095	G1401	G18	G2532
πιστός,	ἐπὶ	ὀλίγα	ἧς	πιστός,	ἐπὶ	πολλῶν		
faithful	over	a few things	thou hast been	faithful	over	many things		
G4103	G1909	G3641	G2258	G4103	G1909	G4183		
σε	καταστήσω·	εἰσελθε	εἰς	τὴν	χαρὰν	τοῦ	κυρίου	σου
thee	I will make	enter thou	into	G3588	the joy	G3588	lord	of thy
G4571	G2525	G1525	G1519		G5479		G2962	G4675

Additional Cross-References

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.

