

# Matthew 25:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

## Analysis

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**Thou wicked and slothful servant**—Ponēre doule kai oknēre (πονηρὲ δοῦλε καὶ ὀκνηρὲ): 'evil slave and lazy.' Ponēros (πονηρός) means actively wicked, not just mistaken. Oknēros (ὀκνηρός) means lazy/slothful. The master's verdict combines moral and practical failure: the servant's fear-based theology produced wicked inaction.

**Thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not**—The master doesn't affirm the servant's false accusation; he uses argumentum ad hominem: 'Even by your own twisted logic, you should have acted.' If you truly believed I demand profit without investment, you should have been terrified to return nothing. Your own excuse condemns you. This devastating logic exposes the servant's excuse as not just wrong but self-contradictory.

## Historical Context

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In Roman law, a servant who failed in his duty couldn't escape judgment by slandering his master. The master here brilliantly turns the servant's own accusation against him: if the master truly were harsh, the servant's failure to produce anything would be even more inexcusable. The servant's defense is logically incoherent.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does laziness masquerade as theological caution in your life?
2. Does the master calling inaction 'wicked' challenge your tolerance of spiritual passivity?
3. What excuses for non-stewardship collapse under logical scrutiny?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀποκριθεὶς	δὲ	ὁ	κύριος	αὐτῷ	εἶπεν	αὐτῷ	Πονηρὲ
<b>answered</b>			<b>lord</b>	<b>His</b>	<b>and said</b>	<b>His</b>	<b>Thou wicked</b>
G611	G1161	G3588	G2962	G846	G2036	G846	G4190
δοῦλε	καὶ	ὀκνηρὲ	ἤδεις	ὅτι	θερίζω	ὅπου	οὐ
<b>servant</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>slothful</b>	<b>thou knewest</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>I reap</b>	<b>where</b>	<b>not</b>
G1401	G2532	G3636	G1492	G3754	G2325	G3699	G3756
ἔσπειρα	καὶ	συνάγω	ὅθεν	οὐ	διεσκόρπισα		
<b>I sowed</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>gather</b>	<b>where</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>I have</b>		
G4687	G2532	G4863	G3606	G3756	G1287		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 18:32** (Evil): Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: