

THE MODEL SERVANT

September 19th 2010

Matthew 24:42-46 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

What is the format for a faithful servant? What is the picture of a model servant? Let's look to the scripture to find an example and see if we can't learn to follow it:

Genesis 24:1-52

1. He does not run unsend, vs 2-9. **Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** As servants of the Living Christ, we are to go. We are commissioned to "go ye therefore". Unfortunately, not enough of God's people throughout the ages have heeded this command. Too many choose to stay about the Lord's house instead of working in the fields. **Matthew 9:37-38 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.** "My house is full, but my fields are empty, who will go and work for me today?" The model servant is sent by his master with a purpose. So are we. But are we willing to be sent? **Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.** Isaiah didn't ask "where" .. he simply said "here am I; send me!" We usually here this read, "here am I... Send me"...but I think it was more... "here am I send me!"
2. He goes where he is sent, vs 4, 10. **Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.** We as servants are sent out, into the highways and hedges .. that word "compel" is a strong word. It means to literally force, or induce them to come. We need to go with the urgency of the moment and compel others to come.
3. He does nothing else. Throughout this story, the servant is focused on one thing. That one thing is the task at hand. We have so many distractions in our lives today. So many excuses why we can't go. We must go where our Master sends us. Jesus came to earth for one reason, "**Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?** He did nothing else but His Father's business. **Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.** When we know where God is sending us, and what He wants us to do .. we are to be wise and walk in wisdom .. focused on His will .. nothing else.

Deuteronomy 5:32 Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

4. He is prayerful and thankful, vs 12-14, 26&27. **Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Psalms 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.** Do we spend as much time thanking God as we do seeking “stuff”? Do we thank Him for the small things? Those things we take for granted every day that He provides without us asking?
5. He is wise to win, vs 17, 18, 21 **Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.** As servants it is our responsibility to gather the fruit unto life eternal: **John 4:36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.** If you owned an apple orchard, and hired apple pickers, what good would it be if they would not pick apples? God has a “soul orchard”. What good are the “soul pickers” if they will not pick souls unto eternal life? God’s servants must seek to win the lost unto His harvest.
6. He speaks not of himself, but of his master’s riches and Isaac’s heirship, vs 34-36. **Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** It’s not about us, as servants but about the One who gives us the power to be witnesses. **Psalms 86:12 I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. Romans 15:5-6 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.** As servants, we must speak with one mind, and one mouth of the glory of God.
7. He presents the true issue and requires a clear decision, vs 49. Pastor spoke on this last week. When we are sharing the Gospel and trying to introduce a lost person to Jesus, we must present it clear and get the person to make a decision. Yes or no. What is your decision? Heaven or hell? What is your decision? **Ezekiel 3:18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.** God requires that we seek a clear decision. If not, his blood will God require at our hand. He doesn’t say we need to get a “yes” decision, but we are to warn them clearly. If they choose to reject the Lord, that is on them. **Ezekiel 3:19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.** You say, “Oh, that’s the Old Testament and doesn’t apply to me” .. you tell that to Jesus when you, as His servant, see Him at the Judgment seat. I wonder if he would call us a “good and faithful servant” if that is our attitude.

8. He gives God the glory for all things, vs 52. **Psalms 86:12 I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. Romans 15:6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. John 13:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.** We get to thinking it's about us. What WE are doing. The success WE are having. This servant could have been feeling pretty good about himself and HIS success. But he does what a model servant does. He gives the glory where the glory is due. To God Himself.

Are we model servants? Can we hear these words at that Judgment Seat: **Matthew 25:21 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.** Thou hast been faithful over a few things. Just a few things! Because of that I will make thee ruler over many things. I have given us a "few things" this morning. Enter into the joy of thy lord.

But the main thing is; are we model servants? By the way, you cannot be the Lord's servant of any kind if you are not a child of God. You have a decision to make this morning. Just like Laban and Bethuel had to do, you must make a decision. Accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, or not. It's a yes or no question. Will you receive Christ this morning? Black or white, no grey. A non-response is a no. "I don't know" is a no.

If you are saved, it's the same kind of question. Yes or no. Are we model servants? The instructions are "watch therefore" ... do what you know is right. Watch .. be diligent. For we know not what day or time the "goodman of the house" is coming. **Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.**

Does that describe you? If the Lord were to return today, what would He find you doing? Serving the world? Serving your self interests? Or would he find you as a faithful and wise servant?

Revelation 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

As Christian servants we are to watch. Be ready. Not lay aside our robes of righteousness thinking the Lord will not return and be caught spiritually naked for all to see our shame.