

Three out of Four Beaten

Luke 12: 35~40 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return **for** the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. **Blessed are those servants**, whom the lord when he cometh **shall find watching**: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, **blessed are those servants**. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the **thief would come**, he would have **watched**, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. **Be ye therefore ready** also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour **when ye think not**.

The servants are blessed because they are watching, but watching what...the world? No, not the world but focusing on watching for the thief that would come breaking into their houses, their chambers, to take their possessions, the very things we in our own lives would hold most dear. The relevant questions now become where is our heart? what do we cherish the most? This scripture speaks of the holiest possession one can possess...Yah's Holy Spirit. But most being so deeply immersed in daily living concerns consider the tangible things, the "stuff" the gifts provided by our Creator as having far more value.

Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

*The instructions call upon us to watch, have an awareness of the thief, the evil one's effort to readily manipulate us, directing **me, myself and I** into forfeiting our inheritance through an imposed mind set of letting down our guard. That is so easily accomplished by allowing ourselves to coexist with sin in our lives. As one befriends evil, one becomes dulled to its deceptive nature whose ultimate goal is to steal the inheritance of Yah's gift to us. Thus when Yah calls you to account for your utilization of the gifts, the talents given you to produce, one will be found lacking, dismissed, gathered with the unbelievers.*

Oh we were so busy watching everything except what we were called to do. As was found in the case of the 10 virgins of Matthew 25, only five were watching with sufficient oil in their lamps having prepared themselves for Our Lord's coming. They all were initially given the gift of His Spirit, but five were foolish in how they cherished, cared for and used it.

Thus the difference of being a good steward with the talents given from one found lacking such a positive result lies in motivation. What do I cherish the most within my heart? One's actions manifest one's desire and documents there focus. If one centers on sports, you would see such a person constantly indulging in those activities, whether participating in them or observing them. If one's craving is for worldly glitter, self adoration, such efforts would be featured in the latest trends for public applause, approval in others eyes. If one lost the aspiration to grow, that mindset would produce a deficiency of success.

Although Yah is the only one seeing everything, we each display our own desires as well as see those of others being displayed. It's hard to hide the real you. In life we are called to be servants of His truth with our actions, not the talk but the walk, carrying out His will. One becomes a companion united with His Holy Spirit joined in an active walk as opposed to one merely having a knowledgeable acquaintance of His way.

Luke 12:41~48 Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and **wise steward**, whom his lord shall make **ruler over his household, to give** them their portion of **meat in due season**? Blessed is that **servant**, whom his lord when he cometh **shall find so doing**. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. **But** and **if** that **servant** say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that **servant** will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, **and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers**. And that **servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself,**

neither did **according to his will**, shall be **beaten with many stripes**. But he that **knew not**, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be **beaten with few stripes**. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

*The timing of this parable is most interesting. On the surface it seems that Yahshua is speaking of His return. Yet when tying it in with the previous statements in Luke 12:35~40, the meaning actually refers to a generic reference to the catching of one unawares, meaning mankind. The resultant instructions focus on us to watch for the thief that would come and break into our house, our chambers in order to take our possessions **not at His return... but now**. This scripture conveys that Yahshua then in human form was directing His disciples then alive young men to serve in His household as servants, as exemplars for all to follow.*

*Yahshua is talking about that faithful and **wise steward** whom He shall make as a ruler over **His household**, meaning the ministry, the work of sharing the gospel, the good news, heralding the Kingdom of Yah. When Yahshua returns to check on His servant will He find him giving others their portion of **meat in due season**? Will He find His servants that were instilled with the most precious gift that of the Holy Spirit being in denial of their calling? Will He find a **servant** having a carefree heart rationalizing, "My lord delays his coming; look no one is checking up on me now, there is plenty of time, I'll be able to see the signs before He calls?" Truly this attitude evidences a foolish person, one having appointed his portion with the **unbelievers**. Yet blessed is that **servant**, who when his lord comes to check up on him **shall find so doing**.*

The parable is directed to all instilled with living life as a valued servant within His household, as shown through consistent effort of having done His will as well as being found doing so when called upon. The Book of Life contains the names of those found doing, those refusing to surrender their inheritance to the thief. The servant's worth is measured to the degree he has valued the gift given while prospering with it. Although the same gift is given to all, not all accepts it in the same way.

Note the similarities of accepting the gift of His Spirit are found with that of the seed sown as recorded in Matthew, Chapter 13. The seed sowed in the parable in four widely varying places was uniform, viable seed of the same type having equal germination potential, hence equal value.

Matthew 13:1~17 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them (*hard hearted*) it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing...see not; and hearing...they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Notice there is no mention of the type, the condition, the variability, or the viability of the seed, meaning the word represented by the seed had uniform content, symbolic of having the identical message. The only distinction was their being sown in different areas, referring to people having different degrees of spiritual maturity or receptivity. All hearers are given the same opportunity to produce an increase to serve our Master.

Matthew 13:18~23 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; **Yet** hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by **he is offended**. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh **unfruitful**. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

*Observe closely the following description: “When **anyone** hears the word of the kingdom,” it’s the same for all. Also notice that in each of the four places there is a person receiving the seed. Thus the condition of the place, the willingness to receive, the value assigned, and priority given to protect at all costs describe factors behind how a person places an importance, a worth to the seed, the gift of the word. Once again what is produced is quite evident to all with eyes to see...those having ears that hear.*

Now compare Luke Chapter 12 and note the similarities. Four different people are also mentioned paralleling the seed thrown in four different places, referring to four diverse spiritual mindsets.

Luke 12:41~48 Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and **wise steward**, whom his lord shall make **ruler over his household, to give** them their portion of **meat in due season**? Blessed is that **servant**, whom his lord when he cometh **shall find so doing**. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. **But and if** that **servant** say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that **servant** will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, **and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers**. And that **servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not** himself, neither did **according to his will**, shall be **beaten with many stripes**. **But** he that **knew not**, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be **beaten with few stripes**. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Four different people each having his or her unique spiritual mindset are mentioned, yet all are called “servant”, one likened to another similar to the seed, but all differing in their service to his Master.

*First those called to be servants who at Yahshua’s return He finds there with house lights burning, giving and watching, performing the task given him were declared to be **wise stewards**. They fulfilled the task given them which was ruling over Yahshua’s household, doing the Master’s will, creating an increase. Their reward for good service will be ruling with Him at His return.*

*Second are those also called to be servants who **grew weary and did not continue doing**, turning from their service of stewardship. They developed a relaxed vision, were careless with His calling, delusional of any required accountability, calling in question the necessity of his doings. One who carries the pretence of accrued time and knowledge as sufficiency of service apart from action. These sadly mistaken servants will be appointed their place with the **unbelievers**, equated with those whose actions showed they never genuinely believed the truth of the word and as a result are cast outside the city. Revelation 22:14*

Third were those called to serve who were **shown the truth** of His will yet did not prepare themselves and repent...change their wayward behavior. Humanity that rejects the truth, avoiding the light of the word, shows an unwillingness to develop. "Growth is the sign of maturity," the visual evidence of getting past oneself. This group of servants will be **beaten with many stripes**. For they, upon hearing the charge of their master's will, were found unchanged at His return.

Fourth and lastly are those **unknowing our Master's will**, His truth, who will be **beaten with few stripes**. This group even though they did not know the will of the Ruler to come, was yet found guilty against His laws. Unfortunately ignorance is not an acceptable excuse in our Creator's eyes for all have observed His creation and the depth of life to understand that it is above man's doings.

Four different types of people set in two groupings have just been described: those rewarded and those beaten. Of the beaten, all were beaten for their guilt...sins, but those that knew better and did contrary were **beaten more**, and appointed with **unbelievers**. They were held accountable for the gift given them, unwilling to serve, having failed to cherish this most precious gift.

The same offence...sin, the transgression of the law, ignoring Yah's truth was committed by all three, and each was punished for their sin in different severities. Notice the one that didn't know, not have knowledge of the truth, was beaten with few stripes, which leads us to conclude that ignorance is no excuse for not doing right. Yahshua leaves us some examples of guilt remaining because one knew and did not comply with the edict given.

John 9:39~41 And Jesus said, **For judgment** I am come into this world, that **they** which see not (*the gentiles*) might see; and that **they** which see (*the Jews*) might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we (*the Jews*) blind also? Jesus said unto them, **If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.**

Once again the guilt of transgressing the law, His words is the same. The guilt however is judged differently according to a person's ability to know and understand the words of Yah. Regardless of the degree of personal knowledge, the person remains accountable for having transgressed the law.

John 15:18~24 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: **but** because ye are not of the world, but **I have chosen you out of the world**, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. **If I had not come and spoken unto them, (*the Jews*) they had not had sin: but** now they have no cloke (*excuse*) for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. **If I had not done among them (*the Jews*) the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but** now have they both **seen** and **hated** both me and my Father.

Their sin is held against them because they declared that they were alert. They witnessed the miracles of our Lord, yet refused to acknowledge Him as the Christ, hating Him. Although sin is punished differently, yet sin remains the same as transgressions ignoring Yah's words. Note that all are judged the same by the same standards. We who declare to know and profess to understand have no cloak to hide behind.

Three different ways that Yah deals with us, and the sins that we comment against His laws.

1. Sin done without knowledge of His will, not knowing right from wrong...**sin done in ignorance.**
2. Sin committed without being mindful of the fact, forgetful, not conscious of your doings, knowing right from wrong, but unaware that you are in the wrong ...**sin hidden from our state of mind.**
3. Sin done boldly, with full knowledge of our doing, and doing it anyway...**sinning presumptuously.**

Through the parables of the sewer and of the steward, Yah shows there is only one out of four that find their way through the gate into the kingdom. Despite all being on the path, three found themselves lost in the world. It was the wise steward that diligently went about his Master's business forsaking his own will, symbolized as seed planted in good soil that produced an increase away from the path to destruction.

*Desire without discipline breeds disappointment;
Discipline without desire breeds drudgery.*

One cannot see the forest when deep inside the woods, nor does one readily acknowledge sin when engrossed in it. It is difficult to see self until we concede to truth that acts as the mirror reflecting ourselves in comparison to it. Temptation is always at the door waiting for our invitation, but we must control it, or "self" will always control us.

The parable of the talents reiterates the battle between accomplishments in our walk and failure due to unwillingness to extend ourselves in the doing of His will. How many times do we give excuses for our lack of action? Maybe tomorrow, it's not the right time. Now is the time, today that has been given to do the work we are called to do. Yesterday has passed, never to return and tomorrow may not come. Today hearing His calling, we must respond! This is the gift; today...that is why it is called "the present" that must not pass unopened.

Mathew 25:14~30 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 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. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 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. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 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: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

*We are called to produce a profit, generated from a given gift creating more in the likeness of our Creator hence doing likewise as He does...**creating**. Thus the examples given set the desire of Our Creator within us to serve according to His will.*

Matthew 25:31~46 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye

gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink. When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

*Why are we not accepted by Yah, why do we feel at times so distant, sad and angry?
 If we do well, will we not have blessing through His grace?
 Yet if we do wrong, sin is waiting at the door,
 Desiring for us to forfeit our inheritance,
 Imperative we master sin.
 Gen 4: 1~7*

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