






Stewarding Authority with Godly Fear



Explore how leaders must wisely steward their God-given authority, reflecting on Matthew 24:48–51's lesson about the wicked servant's judgment.



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Introduction

Welcome to this transformative 3-day study on the Gospels, with a focused look at **Matthew 24:48–51**. In this passage, Jesus describes a wicked servant who abuses his power, reminding us of the gravity and responsibility of leadership. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus teaches the importance of faithful stewardship and warns of the consequences when those entrusted with authority act selfishly or harshly.

Leadership, especially spiritual or relational leadership, is a divine trust that demands humility, integrity, and reverence for God. This study invites you to explore how the Gospels reveal God's heart for those in authority and challenge us, whether as leaders or followers, to reflect on stewardship through His eyes.

As you engage with Scripture over these three days, allow the Spirit to convict and encourage you. Reflect on where you might be called to lead with a servant's heart, and where you might need to realign your actions with God's holy standards. Remember, Jesus Himself modeled perfect servant leadership, calling us to follow His example not for personal gain but to glorify God and bless others.

Let's journey through the Scriptures together to deepen our understanding of godly authority, responsibility, and the heart of true stewardship.





Day 1: 📖 Understanding Stewardship and Authority



Day 1:  Understanding Stewardship and Authority

Your Verse

Matthew 24:48–51 NIV - "But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Luke 12:48 - "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."*
- *1 Peter 5:2 - "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing..."*



Day 1:  Understanding Stewardship and Authority

Devotional: Authority: A Sacred Trust, Not a Privilege

Authority as a Divine Trust

In Matthew 24:48–51, Jesus tells a sobering parable about a servant who abuses his master's trust. This servant, given authority, chooses selfishness and cruelty instead of stewardship and care. This story reflects a critical truth: authority is not a license for exploitation but a sacred responsibility. As leaders or stewards of any kind, we hold positions that demand faithfulness and reverence.

Jesus warns us of the consequences when power is misused and the fear of God is absent. The wicked servant's heart is marked by impatience and disregard for others. This leads to harsh treatment of fellow servants and indulging in self-centered pleasures. The master's unexpected return brings judgment, highlighting the need for constant vigilance and integrity in leadership.

Luke 12:48 expands this, emphasizing that greater responsibility calls for greater accountability. If you are in roles of influence—whether in church, family, workplace, or community—this passage challenges you to examine how you exercise that authority.

Today, meditate on your current leadership or stewardship roles. Are you serving with humility and care? Do you openly acknowledge God as the



ultimate authority over your service? Let this be a call to honor God in the way you lead and serve.



Day 1:  Understanding Stewardship and Authority

Reflect and Apply

1. How do I currently view the authority or responsibility I have in my life?

2. In what ways might I be tempted to abuse or neglect that authority?

3. What would it look like to lead with a greater fear of God and humility?



Day 1:  Understanding Stewardship and Authority

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when you witnessed authority used well or abused. How did it affect those involved?




2. Reflect on your own leadership roles. Are they aligned with God's standards?

3. What specific steps can you take to better steward your responsibilities this week?



Day 1:  Understanding Stewardship and Authority

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me to understand that authority is a trust from You, not a power to control others. Teach me to lead with humility and reverence. Give me wisdom to steward well the roles You have given me, so I honor You in all I do. Guard my heart against selfishness and pride. May I always be ready for Your return, serving faithfully and lovingly. In Jesus' name, Amen.   





Day 2: The Danger of Selfish Control



Your Verse

Matthew 24:49 NIV – "He then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards."

Supporting Scriptures

- *James 3:1 – "Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."*
- *Proverbs 16:18 – "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."*



Devotional: Guarding Against Pride and Abuse of Power

Recognizing the Heart of the Wicked Servant

Matthew 24:49 portrays the heart of the wicked servant — one who abuses his power to dominate and mistreat others while indulging in reckless living. This harsh behavior illustrates the consequences of a heart that has forgotten God's authority and care.

When leaders become self-centered, they distort their role and cause harm to those they were meant to serve. James 3:1 reminds us that greater teaching or leadership responsibility comes with greater judgment. This is because leaders' influence can either uplift or destroy.

Pride often underlies selfish control. Proverbs 16:18 warns that pride leads to destruction, a truth seen in the servant who presumed his master's delay and became abusive rather than faithful. This pride blinds leaders to their accountability before God and their need for humility.

Today, meditate on the dangers of pride and selfishness in leadership. Are there ways you struggle with controlling others to suit your desires? Recognize the destructive patterns that arise when fear of God diminishes in the heart of a leader. Ask God to reveal any areas where pride or selfish control may be present and to soften your heart to servant leadership.



Reflect and Apply

1. What are the warning signs of pride influencing my leadership style?

2. How do I react when I feel my authority is challenged or delayed?

3. In what ways can I cultivate humility to avoid the pitfalls of the wicked servant?



Day 2: 📖 The Danger of Selfish Control

Journaling Prompts

1. Identify moments when pride has influenced your decisions. How did it affect others?

2. Write about how you respond to pressure or temptation to misuse authority.

3. List practical actions you can take to maintain humility in leadership.



Day 2: 🙏 The Danger of Selfish Control

Prayer for Today

Father, expose the pride and selfishness in my heart that tempt me to misuse the authority You have given me. Help me to lead with humility and grace, remembering that I am accountable to You. Teach me to love those I serve and to resist the temptation to control selfishly. Keep me alert and faithful, trusting You with all my leadership. Amen. 🙏❤️🛡️



Day 3: 🕊️ Leading with Godly Fear and Faithfulness



Day 3: 🕊 Leading with Godly Fear and Faithfulness

Your Verse

Matthew 24:50 NIV - "The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 12:28 - "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe."*
- *Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."*



Devotional: Faithful Stewardship in God's Sight

Faithfulness in Anticipation of Christ's Return

The master's unexpected return to the wicked servant reminds us that our time as stewards and leaders is temporary. Jesus' warning emphasizes the need for constant faithfulness and the fear of God—a reverence that fuels integrity in all things.

Hebrews 12:28 calls believers to worship God with reverence and awe, a God-centered fear that leads to faithful living. This fear isn't about terror but about respectful obedience to the One who holds our lives and leadership in His hands. Colossians 3:23 uplifts this attitude by encouraging us to work wholeheartedly “as for the Lord,” not merely for human approval.

Today, reflect on your leadership with eternal perspectives in mind. Are you living with the awareness that Christ could return at any time? How does this shape your decisions, your treatment of others, and your commitment to integrity? True leadership aligned with God's fear anticipates accountability and seeks to please God above all.

Embrace the call to be a faithful steward, leading with reverence, humility, and love until Jesus returns.



Reflect and Apply

1. How does awareness of Christ's return affect my leadership and daily decisions?

2. In what ways can I cultivate a healthy fear of God that inspires faithfulness?

3. What changes can I make to better represent Christ in my leadership?



Day 3: 🕊 Leading with Godly Fear and Faithfulness

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe how thinking about God's judgment influences your leadership choices.

2. Write a prayer asking God to strengthen your faithfulness and reverence.

3. Make a personal commitment to lead with integrity, inspired by this study.



Day 3: 🕊️ Leading with Godly Fear and Faithfulness

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, help me to live as if You could return at any moment. Teach me to lead with reverence, faithfulness, and love. May I work wholeheartedly, not for human praise but to glorify You. Strengthen me to be a steward who honors Your trust, always ready to give an account. Amen. 🙏 ⏳ ❤️





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