

“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household?” (Matt. 24:45)

- Verses about being ready for the Lord’s coming (24:37-44) are connected to the verses about the faithful slaves: “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave.” These slaves are the leaders in the flock. Matt. 24:45-51 is about the responsibility of leaders to prepare the flock for Christ’s return. See also Lk. 12:42-46.
- If a leader is feeding God’s people properly when Christ suddenly comes, then he is blessed with increased responsibilities in the coming 1,000 year Kingdom. (verses 46-47).
- An evil leader thinks in his heart that Christ’s coming is delayed (48). This attitude results in mistreatment of other believers and self-indulgence like the worldly people (48-49). How a leader lives is as important as what he teaches.
- Christ will come unexpectedly in severe judgment upon the evil leader. “Cut in pieces” pictures severe judgment (Heb. 11:37). “Placed with the hypocrites” (v. 51) seems to mean receiving the same judgment as the hypocritical Jewish teachers of the Law during the 1,000 year Kingdom age (Matt. 23:13-15, 23, 25, 27, 28, 33). The judgment of *gehenna* is for the hypocrites (v. 33). This is not the same place or condition as the “lake of fire” for eternity (Rev. 20:15). This penalty of *gehenna* exists only during the 1,000 Kingdom year age, in contrast to “life” in that age (Mk. 9:43-47). Teachers of God’s word are held to a higher standard of accountability than the average believer (1 Cor. 4:1-5; Jas. 3:1). “Weeping” indicates sorrow over loss and “gnashing of teeth” indicates self-blame.