

**THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH**  
**IVκ. Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (cont.)**

**Jesus Proclaims Truth** (Part 22<sup>a</sup>) First Watch c. 7:30 P.M. Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33. Lesson: **The Parable of the Faithful, Prudent, and the Evil Bondslaves** (Mt. 24:45-51; Lk. 12:42-48).

**Introduction:** Having examined the Lessons that The Lord Jesus taught in The Temple to the multitude and His disciples during the day on Wednesday, we then considered:

**I. His exit from The Temple** (c. 6:30 P.M.) and

**II. His prophetic teaching on the journey up to and upon The Mount of Olives.**

**A-F.** After The Lord Jesus answered the disciples three questions concerning when and what signs His disciples were to look for to indicate the Time of His Return To Earth to set up His Kingdom, He then told The Parable of The Fig Tree followed by a description of the Conditions on Earth which shall prevail before The Son of the (Hu)Man Returns to Earth. The fourth Prevailing Behavior Reveals Laxity of Stewardship (c. 6:40-7:30P.M.). All that we have and are was purchased by The Lord Jesus Christ by His paying the debt of Sin for us on the cross of Calvary, which every human owed. Therefore our bodies, souls, and spirits and every possession of ours was purchased by Him to use as He intends. But He will not force anyone to surrender it. It must be voluntarily surrendered to Him.

**G. The Parable of the Faithful, Prudent, and the Evil Bondslaves** (Mt. 24:45-51).

In this parable The Lord Jesus proceeded from instructing His disciples concerning His Return or Coming-Presence as Son on The (Hu)Man (Mt. 24:27,30,39; Mk. 13:26; Lk. 21:27) for His Disciples to His Return in relationship to them as Lord and Master over His bondslave-servants (Mt. 24:45; Mk. 13:34). But in order for us to better understand the full significance of this parable and properly apply it to us in the twenty-first century, a brief lexical analysis concerning the word translated as 'servant.' In many of the older translations 'servant' is the translation of six Greek nouns. Such translation does not supply the complete significance of the different types of service performed by each, leaving too much latitude for application to the reader. This is one reason that The God chose the Greek language to communicate His Truth to mankind. The most often used noun is *δοῦλος* (dóulohs) meaning 'bondslave'; then *διάκονος* (deeáh-koh-nohs) meaning 'a minister' (Rom. 13:4,6), 'domestic servant' (Jn. 2:5) or 'deacon' (1 Tim. 3:8,12); *μισθιος* (méestheeohs) or its cognate *μισθωτος* (méesthōtohs) meaning 'a hired servant or employee' (Lk. 15:19) or 'a hireling' (Jn. 10:12); *οικέτης* (okéhtays) meaning 'a household servant' (Acts 10:7); *παῖς* (país) meaning 'a child, boy or girl, or young servant' (Lk. 7:7); *ὑπηρέτης* (hupayrétais) meaning 'a minister' (1 Cor. 4:1), 'officer' (Mt. 5:25) or 'attendant' (Acts 5:21,22), or 'literally an under-rower.'

The Greek noun in this parable is *δοῦλος* (dóulohs) meaning 'bondslave.' To properly understand and apply principle and the significance of this parable is absolutely necessary to reflect on the use and function of slavery in the the history of Israel and not by slavery in American or Roman History. Although slavery was permitted by The God in Israel, it was greatly restricted under the

Old Testament Law (Lev. 25:35-55), specified by Moses on Mt. Sinai most likely in c. 2509 A.C (After Creation) or 1618 B.C. which was still strictly observed for more than 1650 years later, at the time that Jesus told this parable. The Law given by Moses permitted Israelites to have both male and female bondslaves forever (v. 46), but permitted Israelis to serve Israelites only as hired servants but not for more than fifty years under certain restrictions because Israelites are The God's bondslaves purchased by redemption out of Israel (Lev. 25:42,55 cf. Ex. 6:6,7).

At the time that The **LORD** God gave The Ten Commandments to Moses to pass on to the new nation, Israel on the third month after The Exodus, May-June (Sivan) c. 2509 A.C. He also gave a list of 27 judgments (Ex. 21:1-23:33), the first of which concerned the limitation of length of service of an Hebrew bondslave, bought out of necessity, who came into service by himself. After he served six years, he, must be released in the seventh year and could go out by himself. But he acquired a wife and children during those years, they must remain behind to serve the Hebrew master. But he desired to remain, he must publicly say I love my master, my wife, and my children and will not go free. Then before the judges stand before the door or door post and have his master bore a hole in his ear lobe with an awl, but he did not wear an earring. The hole in his ear, indicated that he was a loving, voluntary bondslave with his ear attentive to hear and do all his master's will and bidding forever and therefore was depending upon his master for all his and his family's physical, material, and subsistent needs. Then, with his body marked, he would be identified to serve his master forever as a bondslave to an earthly master (Ex. 21:6). This would serve to confine him to the locality of his master.

Thus by this it can be seen that the Scriptural meaning of pierced ears is that the one whose ears are pierced is a bondslave to a human but not to the One true God. Earrings in pierced ears in the Scriptural sense indicate idolatry or bondage to sin and false gods. However, pierced ears that do not have earrings, but scars indicate that though that person was once a bond slave to sin, now through an understanding of the true relationship to The God, that person is a bondslave to The Lord Jesus Christ with ears open to hear His voice and himself ready to obey Him and do His will as indicated throughout Scripture.

In all Scripture this is the only marking on the body of His children that The God ordered **and permits** (Lev. 19:19a, 27, 28, 37). What one puts on his or her own body and what one does with that body is very important because you may defile your body without knowing it. The God created the human body to glorify Him, The Almighty God. He made us in His image and likeness. Satan has attempted and succeeded in corrupting the human concept of how to honor The God and how to honor and preserve everything which The God created good and beautiful. Consequently, since this concept has been corrupted, creation has been corrupted through sin. Some have corrupted, defiled, marred, or disguised their bodies so that The God's likeness is changed or corrupted and can no longer be seen. Some have so marked and marred their bodies that after they are regenerated those marks of sin, shame, and symbols of bondage to Satan and slavery to sin cannot be erased. Paul exhorted the Corinthian saints to glorify The God both in body and

in spirit (1 Cor. 6:19:20).

“<sup>19</sup>Or, you& are aware, are you& not? The body of yours& is a <sup>0</sup>Holy Place<sup>[of The Temple]</sup> of <sup>0</sup>Holy Spirit Who <sup>lis</sup> in you&, Whom you& continually have from <sup>0</sup>God; and, You& continually are not belonging to yourselves, <sup>20</sup>for you& are redeemed<sup>[bought as a slave in a marketplace]</sup> with a highly respected precious price. Accordingly glorify<sup>[exalt with majestic radiance]</sup> The God in the body of yours& and in the spirit of yours&, whichever& are The God’s!’” (1 Cor. 6:19, 20 APT).

Then eight months later, shortly after erecting the Tabernacle on the first of Abib (March-April), 2009 A.C. (c. 1617 B.C.), The LORD God gave statutes or enactments concerning customs and right living and judgments or judicial decrees for guidance in dealing with servitude and violations of The Commandments of The God (Lev. 26:46). Among these statutes were further declarations concerning bondslaves and their masters and poverty stricken Israelites (Lev. 25: 39-55). The God intended that there never be any poor among the Israelites, but it depended upon their complete obedience to all that The God commanded, otherwise He would see to it that the poor would never cease (Deut. 15:4-7). And knowing ahead of time that they would fail to keep His Word, He provided for the offspring of the disobedient ones to be cared for by those who are blessed. Therefore if an Israelite has fallen into poverty and is sold to another Israelite, he must not be compelled to serve as a bondsman, but as an hired servant (Lev. 25:39-55).

The above should serve as a background of bondslavery in Bible times and restrictions which Scripture placed upon it and enable us to understand how The God views it. He plainly indicated that every human is a bondsman, either to Satan and Sin or to The True God, His Son, and Righteousness voluntarily. And such condition is Eternal unless a human decides and voluntarily chooses to cease being controlled by Satan and Sin and exchanges the old master to become a bondsman to The only True God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to serve Him faithfully for ever.

Now back to The Parable of the Faithful, Prudent, and the Evil Bondsmen (Mt. 24:45-51).

1. The Faithful Prudent Bondsman (Mt. 24:45-47).

a. His Appraisal: Faithful and Prudent.

(1) Faithful:

(A) True and consistent in affection, allegiance, and loyalty to the one to whom he or she is bound by means of love, thankfulness, respect, and high esteem;

(B) Stable and thorough in performance of duty.

(2) Prudent:

(A) Circumspect in action;

(B) Practically frugal;

(C) Economically discreet.

(2) His Approval for His Position.

The bondsman must first prove that he exercises these qualities before receiving the higher appointment by his master. This bondsman has labored before his master’s observance for years and has proven to be obedient, faithful, loyal, and qualified. He had gained his master’s trust and approval.

Have we, you and I been faithful for some time and proved worthy of greater trust and so qualified for promotion to a

higher level of service and trust by The Lord Jesus Christ?

(3) His Appointment to His Position.

Before his master departed on a trip he appointed his bondslaves to their various positions and this one the steward of his possessions, including the other bondslaves, having trained in many areas of responsibility at the direction of his master. But now as steward he is in full charge over all to see that business is carried on as his master did before departure. He is responsible that all the household-servants and bondslaves receive their nourishment in due-time and not suffer because of his negligence or slack in his stewardship and duty. He persists in fulfilling his trust and loyalty in stewardship true to the end even in the delay of his master's return. Are you and I as faithful if seeing that The Lord's missionary bondslaves receive their portion of sustenance and nourishment in due time true to the end? When The Lord Jesus Christ returns in the air to take us to Heaven will we be counted as faithful and prudent bondslaves?

2. The Evil Bondslave (Mt. 24:48-51).

a. Discrediting his Master in His Heart (Mt. 24:48). He began to say in his heart, 'My lord is delaying to come.' Then he reversed his direction and denied his appointed duty.

b. Began Beating his Fellow Bondslaves and Reveling with the Drunken (Mt. 28:49).

c. His Ultimate Surprise (Mt. 24:50,51).

(A) When he least expected it his lord arrived (Mt. 24:50).

(B) His punishment was three-fold (Mt. 24:51):

(1) Cut in pieces while still alive;

(2) He is condemned to the same eternal punishment with the hypocrites;

(3) He spends Eternity in The Lake of Fire joining in the loud weeping and the gnashing of teeth in eternal anguish.

It is deeply desired that not anyone reading or listening to this lesson will find it to be a reality for him or her to be treated by The Lord Jesus Christ as the evil bondslave and hypocrites were treated because of failure to heed The Truth and proceed on the wrong path of life to Eternity.

**Conclusion:** Today we studied The Parable of the Faithful, Prudent, and the Evil Bondslaves. We took time to get an abbreviated understanding of the background of bondslavery in Bible times and restrictions which Scripture placed upon it and enable us to understand how The God views it. Then we examined the parable and the two options that every human has to go into Eternity, either to continue as bondslave to Satan and Sin with evil bondslaves and hypocrites or with The God, His Son and prudent bondslaves. The choice is yours to make as to who shall be your master!

**Application:** Beginning today which shall be your master from now on, The God, The Lord Jesus Christ, and Righteousness or Satan and Sin and disobedience?

Dr. Fred Wittman

For next week: **Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching** (First Watch of Night c. 7:50 P.M.): **The Parable of The Ten Virgins (Look up and read: (Mt. 25:1-13).**