

The faithful and wise steward!

Can you recognize the following **positive** and **negative** character qualities of these portions of God's word? (Pages 2-3)

1. **Obedience** vs. *Willfulness*
2. **Determination** vs. *Faintheartedness*
3. **Loyalty** vs. *Unfaithfulness*
4. **Alertness** vs. *Unawareness*
5. **Flexibility** vs. *Resistance*
6. **Availability** vs. *self-centeredness*
7. **Endurance** vs. *Giving up*
8. **Self-control** vs. *Self-indulgence*
9. **Diligence** vs. *Slothfulness*
10. **Thoroughness** vs. *Incompleteness*
11. **Dependability** vs. *Inconsistency*
12. **Patience** vs. *Restlessness*
13. **Wisdom** vs. *Natural inclinations*
14. **Discernment** vs. *Judgment*
15. **Faith** vs. *Presumption*
16. **Discretion** vs. *Simplemindedness*
17. **Punctuality** vs. *Tardiness*
18. **Cautiousness** vs. *Rashness*
19. **Responsibility** vs. *Unreliability*
20. **Determination** vs. *Faintheartedness*
21. **Loyalty** vs. *Unfaithfulness*

Luke 12:42-48 (NKJV)

42 And the Lord said, "**Who then is that faithful and wise steward**, whom **his master will make ruler over his household**, to give them their portion of food in due season?

43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.

45 **But if that servant** says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,

46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

47 And **that servant who knew** his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

48 But **he who did not know**, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Luke 12:42-48 (ESV)

42 And the Lord said, "**Who then is the faithful and wise manager**, whom **his master will set over his household**, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?

43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

44 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

45 **But if that servant** says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk,

46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.

47 And **that servant who knew his master's will** but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating.

48 **But the one who did not know**, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

Luke 12:42-48 (TEV)

42 The Lord answered, "**Who, then, is the faithful and wise servant? He is the one that his master will put in charge**, to run the household and give the other servants their share of the food at the proper time.

43 How happy that servant is if his master finds him doing this when he comes home!

44 Indeed, I tell you, the master will put that servant in charge of all his property.

45 **But if that servant** says to himself that his master is taking a long time to come back and if he begins to beat the other servants, both the men and the women, and eats and drinks and gets drunk,

46 then the master will come back one day when the servant does not expect him and at a time he does not know. The master will cut him in pieces and make him share the fate of the disobedient.

47 "**The servant who knows** what his master wants him to do, but does not get himself ready and do it, will be punished with a heavy whipping.

48 **But the servant who does not know** what his master wants, and yet does something for which he deserves a whipping, will be punished with a light whipping. Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (AMP)

2 Moreover, it is [**essentially**] **required of stewards** that a man should be found faithful [**proving himself worthy of trust**].

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV)

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be **found faithful**.

Life Application New Testament Commentary.

Luke 12:41-42 Peter wondered to whom Jesus was addressing the previous parable about being prepared for the Kingdom's arrival. Perhaps Peter was wondering about the disciples' responsibilities. They still did not understand what this Kingdom would be like. Peter wondered what their roles would be in comparison with the crowds in general.

Jesus answered Peter's question with another question that focused the disciples' attention on what it meant to be put in charge, and what their roles should be as **leaders**. They should be like a faithful, sensible servant, left in charge by the master. In this story, there is **one faithful servant** (12:42-44) and **three unfaithful ones** (12:45-48).

Luke 12:43-44 The master is Jesus, who would leave his servants in his household (the earth) to serve while he would be gone. All the servants must work, although some are given more **responsibility** and thus more **accountability** (12:48). Those servants who have done a good job when the master returns will have a reward and be given more responsibility.

Luke 12:45-46 However, with the master gone, a slave might think to himself that he can do as he likes, taking advantage of his position of authority. The master would return unannounced, catch him in the act, and banish him for being irresponsible to his task in the master's absence. The words with the unfaithful probably pictures the end-time judgment, wherein the faithful enter God's Kingdom and the unfaithful are sent away (Matthew 25:31-46).

Luke 12:47-48 Those who fail to do their duty can expect punishment. More responsibility, and thus more severe punishment, however, will come to those who knew their duty but refused to do it. Those who are not aware that they are doing wrong will be punished only lightly. Each person is responsible to seek out God's will and to obey; however, God will demand more from those who have been given many gifts and entrusted with much responsibility for the Kingdom.

Clearly, **leadership** in God's Kingdom—no matter how small or large one's responsibilities in comparison to others—is taken very seriously by God. **Those placed in positions where they will guide, influence, and care for others have been given much, and therefore much more is required for their moral, spiritual, and ethical lives. They must show themselves to be examples and must stay close to the Lord so he can guide them. Their responsibilities involve the eternal destinies of others—a job description that should cause them to be ever vigilant and watchful of God's will.**

[Click here.](#) More About Character Development. (Tab)

[Click here.](#) Character Importance by Pastor Vince Marino Short Audios

[Click here.](#) All leaders Prayer focus.