

Matthew 24:45 to End. Christ Describes the End of Faithful and Unfaithful Servants.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of faithfulness in ministers and the consequences of unfaithfulness, highlighting the need to wait for the Lord's coming.

Scripture: Isaiah 25:10

Topics: "Faithful Stewardship", "End Times"

Description

Favell Lee Mortimer delivers a powerful sermon on the responsibility of ministers as stewards of God's mysteries, emphasizing the importance of faithfulness and watchfulness in their service. He warns against neglecting the sacred trust placed upon ministers, highlighting the severe consequences of unfaithfulness. Mortimer also addresses the danger of worldly-minded ministers who abuse their power and indulge in earthly pleasures, neglecting the spiritual needs of their flock. He stresses the imminent return of the Lord, urging both ministers and congregants to be prepared and vigilant, as His coming will be sudden and unexpected, rewarding the faithful and punishing the unrepentant.

Transcript

This part of our Lord's discourse applied with peculiar force to the apostles. They had been made rulers over their Lord's household. But it also applies to all ministers, for they are all stewards of the mysteries of God. A sacred trust is committed to them; and if they neglect it, their condemnation will be very heavy. If the laborer in the field, if the women grinding at the mill, were ungodly, they would perish--but if the steward of spiritual things was unfaithful, how much more miserably would he perish! How happy are those ministers whom death has found watching over their household! It signified not, indeed, whether they died in their pulpits or in their beds; but it signified much whether their hearts were truly in their work. Faithful ministers, like Paul, feel continual sorrow in their hearts for their brethren who know not God. Like him they can also say, when they think of their children in the faith, "We joy for your sakes before our God." (1 Thess. 3:9.)

It is dreadful to think that there are some ministers whom Christ calls evil servants." They think in their heart that the Lord delays his coming. Then they begin to abuse the power committed to them, and to ill-treat the saints of God, their fellow-servants. Worldly-minded ministers have often been great persecutors. What are the pleasures, and who are the companions of such men? It is said in the parable,

"They eat and drink with the drunken." They do not thirst after the river of the water of life, but after earthly delights--they do not love the society of the servants of God, but that of the people of the world.

Is it ministers only, who indulge the wicked thought, "My Lord delays his coming?" Thousands are emboldened in sin by that idea. They do not say with the scoffers mentioned in Peter's second epistle, that he will never come. They do not ask, "Where is the promise of his coming?" but they think "He will not come yet; we may sin on with safety; we shall have time to repent, and amend."

The Lord continually defeats such presumptuous calculations. Death opens the door without giving the slightest notice; his step is not heard--his form is not seen until he has seized his victim, and borne him beyond the reach of repentance or of pardon.

It is in this manner the Lord has punished presumptuous sinners in past times. He will do it in a more signal manner when he comes again. He will select a moment in which the hypocrites shall have no suspicion of his approach. He will come on a day when they are not looking for him, and at an hour when they are not aware of their danger. But on that day his people will be looking for him, and at that hour they will be trusting in him; for they will say when they see him, "This is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us--this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad, and rejoice in his salvation." (Is. 25:10.) Were he to come today in his chariot of clouds, should we be able to say, "We have waited for him?" Would he come to interrupt our pleasures, or to crown our hopes? Would he come to make us weep, and gnash our teeth, or to wipe all tears from our faces forever?

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