

**Sermon Outline**  
“Profitable Servants”  
Matthew 25:14-30

- I.** Three parables concerning preparation, introduced by “watch.”
- A** The house servants 24:43-51
  - B** The 10 virgins 25:1-13
  - A<sup>1</sup>** The trusted servants 25:14-30

Important parallels between the first and third parables

The house servants 24:42-51

Faithful & wise servant v. 45

Evil servant v. 48

Good made ruler over much v. 47 (*cf.* Prov 9:9)

Evil are cast out; gnashing of teeth v. 51

The trusted servants 25:14-30

Good and trustworthy servant vv. 21, 23

Wicked and slothful servant v. 26

Good made ruler over much vv. 21, 23

Evil are cast out; gnashing of teeth v. 30

- II.** The point of the two parables

A time of delay 24:42, 48; 25:14, 19 (*cf.* 25:5)

Hour of judgment on Jerusalem is not known 24:42

Those remaining are to be about the Master’s business

Care of the “house” (a new form of Temple) 24:43-51

Trusted with the Master’s business 25:14-30

The group divided between wise and foolish **See 21:43**

Faithful members of the New Israel

Disciples given greater & lesser tasks

Wicked and slothful members of Old Israel

Unbelievers concerned only about themselves

24:49; 25:24-25 (*cf.* Mt 5:13-16)

- III.** Conclusion

“Watch” means to be prepared, to have one’s tasks in order.

God’s servants are to be stewards of what they have been given.

The disciples had a duty to gather the remnant into the “new nation” (21:43) and of multiplying the church, pending the final destruction of the old order. They were accountable for this work.

We likewise are called to be good stewards of what is entrusted to us. We want to end like St. Paul: **II Tim 4:7-8**. Let us not be like the unprofitable servants!