

**A – Kings – Obedience – Duty**

**1. Kings – Presidents – Rulers – Authorities**

**a. God Himself chooses our leaders:**

**(Daniel 2:19-24; 4:17; 28:25-32) – (Results=Daniel 4:34-37)**

**b. God uses to accomplish His purposes (Isaiah 46:9-11)**

**2. Obedience**

**a. We as Christians are to obey the laws of the land; as long as they do not prohibit you from worshiping the God of heaven – the place of worship is not the issue but the act of worship itself; from reading your bible, praying, and .....**

**(1 Peter 2:13-17; cf Romans 13:1-7)**

**b. Remember, God – obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22)**

**3. Duty**

**a. To make a difference – How? “Let your light shine!”**

**(Matthew 5:14-15; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Peter 2:9-12)**

**b. How do Christians let their light shine?**

**i. As “citizens” (1 Peter 2:13-17)**

**ii. As “workers” (1 Peter 2 18-21)**

**iii. As “marriage partners” (wife-1 Peter 3;1-6, husband-1 Peter 3:7)**

**iv. As “church members” (1 Peter 3:8-17)**

**v. What you “do” is more important than what you “say”!**

**NOTE –There is no better scriptural fulfillment of the above than the study of Psalms 34:1-22 ! Amen and Amen!**

## **Parable of the Talents and Rewards** (Matthew 25:14-30)

1. (v14) The man traveling is the “Lord Jesus Christ”
2. The far country is “heaven” (Jesus Christ ascended into heaven after His resurrection.)
3. The servants represent; in the first instance, the twelve disciples to whom Jesus addressed the parable, and then in a broader sense all born again believers.
4. The talents represent the spiritual gifts given to each of us.

(v15) The amount or number of talents (gifts) depended on each servant’s abilities.

(vs. 16,17, & 18) Describes what each servant did with his talent (gift), and indicates the faithful use the Lord’s people should make of spiritual gifts and opportunities for service.

(v 19) The long awaited return of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His return is very near indeed – imminent. All (believers & unbelievers) will give an account for service.

1. (vs. 20-29) Judgment for service – give an account.
  - a. Believers – the judgment seat of Christ.
  - b. The unbelievers – The Great White Throne Judgment.
2. The faithful servant will receive his rewards, be commended by his Lord, and enter into the joy of the Lord.
3. The unfaithful servant will lose his rewards, be scorned by his Lord, and his joy will be non-existent.

(v30) Many theologians say the unprofitable servant (in v30) and the wicked and slothful servant (in v26) represent a person that has never been born again.

**NOTE:** There were many unbelievers in Jesus’ day that served in the name of God, Jesus, religion, and Christianity, that were never saved, born again:

1. The religious crowd (Matthew 7:21-23) Scribes –Pharisees.
2. Judas Iscariot 9A disciple – Luke 6:13; John 6:71; 13:10-11,18)
3. Church members (1 John 2:19: Hymenaeus, Philetus)

**Unbelievers – “Great White Throne Judgment”**

**(Revelation 20:11-15)**

**Degrees of Punishment**

**Matthew 11:20-24; cf Matthew 10:15**

**Mark 6:10-11**

**Luke 12:40-48 (vs. 47-48) = (Luke 12:31-40, 41-48) Unto all**

**The comparison between a faithful servant (a believer) and an unfaithful servant (an unbeliever).**

- a) **The faithful servant – a believer – will receive rewards at the return of his Master (the Lord Jesus Christ).**
- b) **The unfaithful servant – an unbeliever – will suffer punishment at the return of Christ: (cf Luke 13:27-28; Matthew 24:42-51) indicates eternal judgment and separation from God.**
- c) **People that have heard the Gospel message, yet they did not receive it, nor were they willing to repent, will be held to a higher standard, and will suffer a greater degree of punishment (beaten with many stripes – Luke 12:47)**
- d) **People that have never heard the Gospel message, and did not know will suffer less punishment. (beaten with few stripes - Luke 12:48) (Man still knows – Romans 1;18-20)**
  - a. **Jesus warns us that those who have had more opportunities will be judged more severely than those who have had fewer opportunities. (Matthew 11:20-24)**