

Self Discipline – An Issue of Your Faithfulness to Christ

Day 1 Read Matthew 24:42-51.

1. Write a short summary of what is described in these verses.
2. What responsibility was the servant given?
3. When must he actually “do” the responsibility to be considered faithful by his master?
4. What is said of the servant who is unfaithful concerning the responsibilities given to him by his master?
5. List at least 5 specific responsibilities God has given you in which you see a need to improve. List just the responsibility here. (If married include responsibilities to the spouse God has given you, if parent also include responsibilities to your children, also include responsibilities concerning your residence God has given you, if employed also include responsibilities to your employer.)
6. Choose one responsibility from Question #5, and tell how you can improve on your stewardship/faithfulness to your Master, Christ. Please be specific.

Day 2 Read Matthew 25:14-30

7. Write a short summary of what is described in these verses.
8. What does the master call the 2 servants who did seek to increase what the master had entrusted to them?
9. What does the master call the servant who did not seek to increase what the master had entrusted to him?

10. Review your list from Question #5. Do you see any laziness on your part in any of these? If so, choose one and describe what you can do this week and what day you will do it in order to become a good and faithful servant to your Master, Christ, in that area.

Day 3 Read Luke 16:10-12

11. What character trait is highly regarded by Christ in these verses?

12. Look up this word in a dictionary and record the definition below.

13. Look at your list from Question #5. In which area do you see a lack of this quality? (You may consider trying to see this from the perspective of your spouse, children, employer, and/or neighbors. For objective clarity in seeing this in yourself, you may choose to ask them.)

14. Faithfulness to Christ – your Master – is a fruit of your love and thankfulness to Him for saving you from the eternal punishment you earned by your own sins. Due to this love for Him, you choose to grow daily in this quality. Faithfulness is frequently a matter of recognizing what your God given responsibilities are, asking for God’s help, planning ahead to accomplish them (a structured life), and then faithfully getting them done according to the plan (or restructuring the plan responsibly where necessary.) This will require self discipline – your saying “no” to yourself in many instances for the purpose of being a good and faithful servant of Christ in what He has entrusted to you. How can you add structure and discipline to your life this week such that faithfulness/trustworthiness/good stewardship can be said of you in growing measure in your family relationships, home responsibilities, and/or work responsibilities from Question #5?

15. To what activity will you say “no” to yourself this week in order to be more faithful with your God given responsibilities?

16. How often are you studying your Bible? Praying? Are you doing your counseling homework daily? Would Christ consider you faithful in these areas? What will you do to improve?