

**Faith and Faithfulness (3).**  
**Good and faithful or wicked and lazy?**

According to Jesus, having faith in him leads to being a good and faithful servant. Those who work diligently in God's Kingdom until the Master returns will hear his words: *'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.* However, it is also true that those who do nothing with the wealth of the Good News about Jesus Christ, freely given to them, will hear: *You wicked, lazy servant!*

The work of God - also called the Kingdom of heaven - is like a man going on a journey (*Matthew 25: 14 - 30*), called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags, to another two bags, and to another one bag of gold, according to his ability.

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought another other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, *'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold and see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, *'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' His master replied, *'You wicked, lazy servant! You should at least have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.'*

Are we good and faithful servants, working hard and therefore multiplying the divine blessings we received on the grounds of the cross and victory of our Master?