

The Servant's Reward

Series: Following Jesus: Servanthood

Matthew 25:23 (0835)

Steve Wood; November 30, 2008

Matthew 25:23 ²¹*"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!'"*

I. Privilege and Place

a. Being on the inside of what God is doing

John 2:9-10 ⁹the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first & then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

b. Knowing that our place in life has been assigned by God himself

Matthew 20:20-23 ²⁰Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ²¹*"What is it you want?"* he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." ²²*"You don't know what you are asking,"* Jesus said to them. *"Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"* "We can," they answered. ²³Jesus said to them, *"You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."*

II. Power and Presence

a. Experiencing power beyond comprehension

John 3:3-5 ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Ephesians 3:20-21 ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

b. Living moment by moment in the presence of the King

Luke 10:38-42 ³⁸As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" ⁴¹*"Martha, Martha,"* the Lord answered, *"you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴²but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."*

III. Glory and Honor

a. Living in the glory of wide-eyed abandon

John 12:23-25 ²³Jesus replied, *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."*

b. The honor of fulfilled destiny

John 12:26-28 ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. ²⁷*"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name!"*