

Be ready – the lazy servant

(Matthew 24:44-51)

Key words

Servant: say 'Can I help you?'

Master: say 'Yes sir!' like a soldier

House: sing, 'There's no place like home'

Jesus said: I am coming, but it will be at a time when you do not expect me. So be ready! Be ready every day.

There were once two rich men who went on a journey together. They got their servants, (can I help you?), to pack all their things, then they each called their head servant, (can I help you?), and said: 'I am the master, (yes sir!), of my house, (there's no place like home), but while I am away I am putting you in charge of my house, (There's no place like home), and everything in it, including all the other servants, (can I help you?). Make sure that everything is done properly, just as I would do it, and I will reward you when I come home.'

The two men set out on their journey and the days and weeks and months passed by.

In one house, (There's no place like home), the head servant, (can I help you?), treated all the other servants, (can I help you?), well. The house, (There's no place like home), was kept clean, the garden was looked after, the animals were fed, and everyone did their work carefully and properly. All the servants, (can I help you?), were happy and every hour, for days and weeks and months and years, the head servant, (can I help you?), went outside the house, (There's no place like home), to look along the road and see if his master, (yes sir!), was coming home. He wanted everything to be ready for his Master's, (yes sir!), return.

In the other house, (There's no place like home), the head servant, (can I help you?), began to think: 'Maybe the Master, (yes sir!), is not coming back. Maybe he has had an accident, or got lost, or just decided not to bother coming back. That would mean that I am in charge for ever! He started to not do his work but made the other servants, (can I help you?), do it for him. He started to eat lots of food but didn't give enough to the other servants, (can I help you?). He started to drink lots of wine every night and got very drunk. And then he started to hit and beat the other servants, (can I help you?). In fact he became a thoroughly nasty person who was sure that the master, (yes sir!), would never come back.

Many years went by. Everyone in the good servant's, (can I help you?), house, (There's no place like home), was very happy but everyone in the bad servant's (can I help you?) house (There's no place like home) was very sad and angry.

Then one night when it was very dark there was a loud knocking at the doors of both houses, (There's no place like home). The good servant, (can I help you?), rushed to the door to open it and there stood his master, (yes sir!). He welcomed him into the house, (There's no place like home), and in no time at all there was food on the table and all the other servants, (can I help you?), gathered round eager to hear the stories of the master's, (yes sir!), travels.

The master, (yes sir!), looked at his head servant, (can I help you?), and said: 'Well done. You have been good and faithful while I have been away. I want you to carry on looking after my house, (There's no place like home), and all my possessions and my servants, (can I help you?). Thank you.'

But at the other house, (There's no place like home), the knocking continued. It got louder and louder, but no one came to the door. Eventually there was a great crash and the door burst open and the master, (yes sir!), stood in his house, (There's no place like home). Most of his servants, (can I help you?), were huddled in a corner of the house, (there's no place like home), thin and weak and beaten and bruised, but lying on the couch in the middle of the house, (there's no place like home), was his head servant, (can I help you?). He was very well fed and all around him were empty wine bottles, and he was snoring very loudly. The master, (yes sir!), looked at his lazy servant, (can I help you?), and was angry, very angry! He picked him up, marched him out of the house, (There's no place like home), took him to the judge and in no time at all he was in prison where he stayed for a long long time.

Then the master, (yes sir!), went back to his house, (There's no place like home), and took care of his frightened and beaten servants, (can I help you?), and soon his house, (There's no place like home), was a happy place once again.

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