

Matthew 25:21 & 26

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.'

We all strive and want to hear verse 21 *Well done, good and faithful servant*, and we don't want to hear verse 26 *You wicked and lazy servant*.

But if you want to hear verse 21 then you can't be a verse 26 person. Yet how many want the blessings in the bible, yet don't want to earn them? I'm not talking salvation here, because we all know you can't do anything to earn your salvation, it's a gift of God and Jesus did all the work for us on the cross.

✠ **Ephesians 2:8** *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*

But, if you are a *lazy servant*, why would you expect to hear *well done*?

It would be like the beginning of the year, when most people have their reviews for the work they did the previous year, and raises are given based upon what they did or didn't do.

Raises are usually given based upon a scale. If you do enough just to get by and you do no more or less than others, then you get a small raise or the same as everyone else does, which is usually not a large amount.

Then there are those who do nothing and do a lot less than everyone else does, yet they expect to receive a good raise. Why? I really couldn't tell you, but if you are doing less than everyone else is doing, even though you still have the same amount of hours, and all the same resources to do the same job, the truth is, you are just lazy.

Then there are those who go over and beyond everyone else, some call them brown nosers or say that they are trying to be the boss's pet, or even say other bad things about them. But the truth is, they are just hard workers, and in the end, when the raises happen, they are the ones who get the larger raises and even promotions, not because they are brown nosers or the boss's pet, but because they worked hard to earn it.

Now, this is the world's workforce I have been talking about, but we want to know how to hear, *well done, good and faithful servant* and not *you wicked and lazy servant*. Ok, but one more example of the world's workforce before we address the spiritual one.

Do you know that a lot of people really don't want to hire Christians? Not because they are Christians, but because they are the worst workers. Why? Usually because they go to the work place and think God has called them there to save the entire workforce at their job, which I really

doubt is true. The reason God put you there is to be a great witness for Him, with high work ethics and to be the best worker for His glory, and to earn a honest living, not to be a Evangelist. If you think about it, if you are spending your work hours telling people about Jesus, you are not doing your job, and you are actually stealing from your employer, which is a sin, because you are getting paid for work you never did, and also everyone else has to pick up the slack, because you are not doing your job, and that's a bad witness to them as well.

So, what about the spiritual workforce, so to speak? That's a good question, and the real question is, are you a part of it?

Are you serving in your church? I'm not saying are you the pastor or an elder or a deacon or any high position in the church, but are you doing anything? If not, then you are a *wicked and lazy servant*, but if you are, then *well done, good and faithful servant*.

Maybe you are doing in the church, but you only do it so others can see you and think how great of a Christian you are, and you want the praise of the people. If that's you then you are a *wicked and lazy servant*, and if it's not you, then *well done, good and faithful servant*.

What about tithing? If you don't, then you are a *wicked and lazy servant*, but if you do, then *well done, good and faithful servant*.

What about outside of the church? Do you help and do for others and give to others (Beyond your tithing to the Lord). If you don't, then you are a *wicked and lazy servant*, and if you do, then *well done, good and faithful servant*.

Maybe you do for others, but you make sure everyone knows about it by posting it on social media so everyone can see how great of a Christian you are. If that's you then you are a *wicked and lazy servant*, and if it's not you, then *well done, good and faithful servant*. Because, if you have to show and tell everyone how great of a Christian you are, then you aren't.

I hope you are getting the idea here. Simply put, you cant hear *well done, good and faithful servant*, if you are a *lazy servant* who does nothing.

† **Psalm 34:2** *My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad.*

† **2 Corinthians 10:17** (NLT2) *As the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."*

Those are the ones who are not lazy, and are actually doing, and will hear, *'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*