

Stripes

Lk.12:35-48

Stripes

- Jewish criminals could receive up to forty
 - Some received eighty (double crime; forty for each).
 - Petty offences: as few as four to six.

23 Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. **24** From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one – 2 Co.11.

- Romans: unlimited, Ac.16:23.

I. Abuse of Privileges, Lk.12:35-48

Lk.12:35-36

Active waiting

Miniature parable of virgins (Mt.25)

- 35: girded, belted.
 - Your: personal responsibility
 - Lamps burning
- 36: wait for Master

Lk.12:36-40

What Master will do

- 36-37: return...come...knock
- 37: gird Himself...serve them

What servants must do

- 36: open immediately
- 38: found watching
- 39-40: not caught unprepared

Master was expected at some time; thief, not at all. (V.40)

Lk.12:41, Peter's question

Jesus answers

- 42-44: faithful and wise steward: blessed for 'so doing' . . . (43)
- 45: but 'that' servant . . .
 - His heart says: fallible, human standard
 - He thinks master delays (time guessing)
 - He abusively bullies . . . eats, drinks: self-indulgence; 'repent' later

Lk.12:46


- Caught unprepared
- Cut in two (two parts): led double life
 - Punished with utmost severity; extreme
 - 1 Sm.15:33, Agag
 - Dn.2:5, Chaldeans
 - Hb.11:37, saints
 - Lk.12:46, '*appoint him his portion with the unbelievers*'
 - He survives being cut in two

Lk.12:46

46: *'appoint him his portion with the unbelievers'*

– Make him share fate of disobedient – L-N

47: knew; did not prepare or do: many stripes

- Rejecting exceptional privileges brings exceptional punishment (48).
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“...if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, that the judge will cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence, according to his guilt, with a certain number of blows” – Dt.25:2

Lk.12:46

47: knew; did not prepare or do: many stripes

- Rejecting exceptional privileges brings exceptional punishment (48). Dt.25:2
- OT: presumptuous sins. Num.15 –

30 'But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the Lord, and he shall be cut off from among his people. **31** **Because** he has despised the word of the Lord, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be upon him'

Lk.12:46

47: knew; did not prepare or do: many stripes

- Rejecting exceptional privileges brings exceptional punishment (48). Dt.25:2
- OT: presumptuous sins. Num.15
- Mt.10:11-15; 11:20-24
- Ro.2:6; 2 Co.5:10

Lk.12:46

47: knew; did not prepare or do: many stripes

48: did not know: few stripes

- Justice

- Lk.16: five brothers ... adds emotional agony to torment

- Hell is hell in any degree

 - Illustrated: difference in children

 - Illustrated: two men sin: one callous, one conscientious

I. Abuse of Privileges

II. Admonitions of
Passages

“Figurative language diminishes the threat”

No!

- ‘Beat daylights out of’
 - Idiom: administer merciless beating
 - Daylights: ‘eyes’
 - Figure augments severity of threat
- ‘Jesus comes as a thief’
- Jesus distinguishes degrees of punishment, not duration

“Ignorance excuses sin”

No!

- Ignorance can be sinful. Mt.13:15.
- Ignorance is never absolute. Ro.1-2

General principles: Ro.1:18-20

- ALL can know of God (18-19)
- ALL are held accountable for sin; without excuse (18, 20)
- To whom more is given, more is required (Lk.12:48)

“Ignorance excuses sin”

No!

- Ignorance can be sinful. Mt.13:15.
- Ignorance is never absolute. Ro.1-2

Extent of evidence: Ro.1:18-20

- a. Manifest: clear / plain, evident, 19.
- b. Understandable: by things He made, 20.
- c. Constant: since creation of world, 20.
- d. Limited: eternal power and Godhead [deity, divine nature], 20 ... [not salvation, worship...]

“Ignorance excuses sin”

No!

- Ignorance can be sinful. Mt.13:15.
- Ignorance is never absolute. Ro.1-2
- A servant can know master's will.
Lk.12:47; Ep.3:4; 5:17
- God increases knowledge of honest seekers. Ph.3:15-16

“A little knowledge is dangerous thing”

True.

- So is great knowledge if it does not serve.

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin – James 4:17.

“I favor balance scale judgment” [“I do more good than evil”]

- Jesus judges servants according to condition in which He finds them.
- Former faithfulness did not save servant from present unfaithfulness.
 - Lk.12:45, *begins* to beat...
 - Ezk.18:24

“I favor balance scale judgment”
[“I do more good than evil”]

24 “But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die”
– Ezk.18.

“We can guess when He returns”

- ‘Faithful’ service stays with the job
- Lk.12:46, ‘...*when he is not aware*’

Jesus answered Peter's question (41): who needs to fear?

1. Jesus judges us by way we react to His word. 2 Pt.2:21
2. Excuses do not justify a single sin. Mt.25
3. Ignorance and neglect condemn. Ac.17:30
4. Prepare for Jesus' coming: be good stewards. 48: receive much... Ac.2
5. Jesus will come when we least expect it. Jn.9:4

‘There is nothing so fatal as to feel
that we have plenty of time’

Our most dangerous day: tomorrow.

Satan’s greatest lie (?): ‘there is no hurry.’