

WHO IS THE FAITHFUL SLAVE...

In the context, is Jesus identifying a specific group—or asking what kind of servant proves faithful?

Let's consider this from the Scriptures with purely a Biblical basis of reasoning. This phrase comes directly from:

<<< Matthew 24:45–47 - “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time?”

A critical point often overlooked is that this statement is not isolated. It forms part of a broader discussion beginning in Matthew 24:42–51.

Here, Jesus Is Giving PARABLES. Jesus is NOT ‘Creating an Organization’ As we continue to read we find that Jesus immediately continues with parallel illustrations:

- Faithful vs. evil servant (Matt 24:45–51)
- Ten virgins (Matt 25:1–13)
- Talents (Matt 25:14–30)

These parables are ALL about readiness, faithfulness, and accountability. NOWHERE in this context is there any mention of an institutional structure or a centralized governing authority.

If the “faithful slave” is a literal governing body, then for consistency:

- Must there not also be literal virgins assigned organizational roles?
- Must there exist a literal financial hierarchy tied to the “talents” too?

Clearly, this is not how parables function. They illustrate principles—not organizational frameworks.

We would also have to ask... ‘Who is the ‘Slave’?

Is the “Slave” a Class—or a Type of Servant?

Notice how Jesus himself frames this... “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave...”

Jesus is not identifying a known group. Rather, He is presenting a moral inquiry asking... What kind of servant will prove faithful?

This is reinforced by Luke's parallel account

- Luke 12:41-48 where Peter actually asks... "Lord, are you telling this illustration to us or to everyone?"

Significantly, Jesus does not respond by identifying a special class. Instead, Jesus continues the illustration—expanding the scope of accountability.

Jesus warning about the 'evil slave' actually negates the interpretation of the Watchtower Society. How?

Reading further Jesus says... "But if ever that evil slave says in his heart..." (Matt 24:48)

This again, begs the question...

If the "faithful slave" is the Governing Body, then "who is the evil slave?"
- Is it the same group that went bad?

This presents a serious challenge to the idea of a fixed, appointed class.

Here is the crux, because in the parable the SAME servant can become evil. This directly undermines the entire concept of a permanently appointed, infallible 'class' (as the Governing Body claims to be).

QUESTION: Do the Scriptures defines who provides "Spiritual Food"?
Consistently, the Bible shows that ALL of Christ faithful believers share in teaching and encouragement:

Examples:

<<< Hebrews 5:12 - "You ought to be teachers..."

<<< Colossians 3:16 - "Keep teaching and admonishing one another..."

<<< 1 Peter 4:10 - "Use whatever gift you have received to serve others..."

<<< Ephesians 4:11–16 - Multiple roles given—not a single centralized channel.

Nowhere is there ANY verse in the Bible that says... ‘God will use one small governing group as His exclusive channel’ which is exactly what the Governing Body claims to be.

Moreover, Jesus ESPLICITLY warned against centralized spiritual authority (and we are all aware of his views of the existing central spiritual authority of the day, namely the Pharisees). Jesus himself says at...

<<< Matthew 23:8–10 - “You are all brothers... do not be called leaders, for your Leader is one, the Christ.”

This directly contradicts the idea of a small group claiming ‘exclusive authority’ over all Christians.

It is also important to note that the original apostolic pattern does NOT support a Governing Body model...

In the first century...

- Apostles existed, yes...
- but they did NOT claim to be:
 - The sole channel to God,
 - The only source of truth, or
 - A ruling “class” over all believers

Even in Acts 15 where we find a dispute which needed to be resolved:

- It was a specific dispute (circumcision)
- It did NOT entail ongoing centralized control
- And local congregations still functioned INDEPENDENTLY!

The real meaning of this illustration when you strip away the assumptions, is actually quite clear:

- The “faithful and discreet slave” represents any believer entrusted with responsibility who remains faithful.

- The “food at the proper time” means timely spiritual care, teaching, and encouragement, and
- The lesson is to be faithful, because you will be held accountable

The meaning is NOT...

- “Identifying ANY modern organization” or
- “Submitting to a governing class”

At its heart, the interpretation of the Watchtower Society requires we:

- Read beyond what is written, and
- Turn the parable into an institution, and
- Assign authority the text never grants

This directly conflicts with Paul's admonishment at...

<<< 1 Corinthians 4:6 - “Do not go beyond the things that are written.”