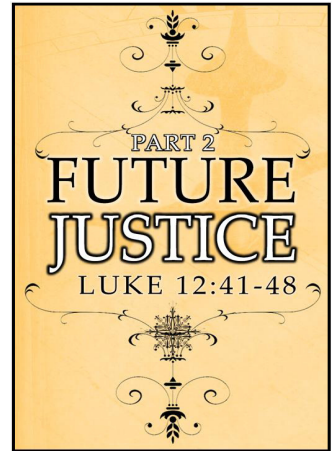


Big Idea
**God's love is seen in this: the condemnation we deserve
was carried out in Christ.**



-- This text inspires at least two very important and potentially difficult questions.

1.) *This passage speaks of the judgment of the Master's servants, but aren't people who have trusted in Christ free from future judgment?*

2.) *Doesn't it seem too harsh that Jesus speaks of cutting the unfaithful into pieces? What is going on with that?*

1.) *Aren't believers spared from future **JUDGEMENT***

-- Scripture makes abundantly clear that every life, including the life of every believer, will be judged by God.

-- 2 Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 10:30, Romans 14:10

-- Our **CONDEMNATION** however, has already been paid entirely in Christ (Romans 5:9, 8:1).

a.) This judgment is meant by God to motivate us to **GODLINESS**

-- People who know that their lives will one day be laid bare before the Lord they love will live differently than those who do not (2 Pet. 3:11-12).

b.) This judgment will **MAGNIFY** the glory of God in Christ Jesus.

-- As the intense depth of our salvation is set before us, we will rejoice like never before in who God is and all that He has done for us in Christ.

c.) In this judgment, God will distribute eternal **REWARDS** and responsibilities.

-- God will reward those who have done His will in the church and give them special responsibilities in His kingdom (Matthew 6:4, 6, 18; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, v. 42-44).

2.) *Cut into pieces? What is going on with that? How could any servant of Jesus be relegated to such a fate?*

a.) Many people who claim to be **SERVANTS** of Christ sadly are not (Matthew 7:22-23).

b.) Genesis 15.

-- v. 1-6 – God promises Abraham that He will bless Abraham by giving Him many offspring through his heir.

-- v. 7-21 – God seals this covenant in a very **INTENSE** way.

-- God instructs Abraham to cut several animals into pieces and to make an aisle out of the pieces.

-- In essence, the parties of the covenant were saying, “If I am unfaithful in this covenant, then let me also be cut in pieces.”

-- v. 17-18

-- Notice: God passes through the pieces all by Himself, thereby making Himself entirely responsible for the whole agreement.

-- God will assume upon Himself the whole **PENALTY** that breaking the covenant demands.

-- Because He was punished in our place, we can live forever in His peace.

Summary

-- God's love is seen in this: the condemnation we deserve was carried out in Christ.

-- Let it be our greatest purpose and constant motivation to live every day in **PREPARATION** for that ultimate Day when we will be together with this Lord who loves us with such an astonishing Love.