

# *the Boss of me*

## *Study One - Who's the Boss?*

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## Study One - Who's the Boss?

### Introduction

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Welcome to Sunday Morning Bible Study – thanks for being here. Today we are beginning a 5 week series called, “the Boss of me.” We hope you’ll find the series interesting and for those of us who are brave enough, we hope God will use this study in our lives to help us discover some ways to get closer to Him, be more effective for Him, and experience more peace and fulfillment here and now in this physical world.

**Transition** Before we get into our study, let me ask this question.

*How many of you have or had an older sibling?*

### Opening Illustration

Now I don’t know about your older brother or sister but mine was 7 years older than me. And I know I have shared stories about him before where he was playing the role of my bodyguard and helping me not to get beat up by bigger kids in our neighborhood, but there was another side to my brother. Yep, there was a dark side. Oh yeah, being 7 years older than me, he



felt like he was far enough ahead of me in life that he could tell me what to do and then make me do it whether I wanted to or not. I guess all of that bully protection came with a price! You kind of felt like you were making a deal with the mob if you asked for his protection because somewhere down the road, he'd be looking for a "favor."

And I remember on plenty of occasions when he'd be barking out orders and telling me what to do, I'd holler back at him, "Quit bossing me!" or "You're not the boss of me!"

And then there were the times when my parents would be leaving the house and would leave my brother in charge – oh – the horror! He'd be smugly standing behind them nodding while they were instructing me to listen to him and do whatever he said while they were gone. It was like they were saying, "He IS the boss of me." And boy, did my brother take those instructions to heart! He wasn't just providing daycare – he really saw himself as the boss!

Can any of you remember times like that when you were growing up?

Can you remember yelling back at somebody in your life, "Hey, quit bossing me!" or "Hey, you're not the boss of me!"

**And there may have been other people we've said that to.**

- Ever told a **parent** "you're not the boss of me"?
- How about a **baby-sitter**?
- A **teacher**? How'd that work for ya?



- How about your **spouse**? Okay, men, maybe we're not brave enough to holler that at our wives but I bet we've *thought* it real loud!
- Maybe it was the last thing you said to your **employer** before you quit your job, "You're not the boss of me! (*pause*) I'll go clear out my desk."
- Has anyone ever told **God** that? "You're not the Boss of me!" Maybe not in so many words but the choices you made at some points in your life were evidence that you were not letting God be the Boss of you?

### *Class Questions*

- But hey, didn't God endow us with **free will** and the power to choose for ourselves? **Yes, He did.**
- And doesn't that set each believer up to be the "boss of their own life?" No? **No.**
- If Christians aren't the boss of themselves, who is? **God is.**
- How do Christians know that God is supposed to be the Boss of them? **The Bible teaches this.** Where? **For one example, turn to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and listen to this 11:3a.**

*Any problems with those verses?* No? Okay, so it seems we're all relatively convinced that God is "the Boss of us."

**Transition** – But this particular teaching leaves all of us Christians with a void in our lives or a vacuum or at the bare minimum with a question that each of us needs to settle in his or her own life.



## Question

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*Here's the question:*

If I am *not* the boss of me, and God *is*, then what role do I perform as I make choices in this life?

*Or In Other Words*

If I am not my own boss, what part DO I play in my life?

**Transition** Fortunately for us, Jesus had some things to say on this subject so if you have your Bibles, turn to Matthew 24:45.

## Passage

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### Passage Background

You may or may not be familiar with this part of the Bible, but this part of Matthew's record of Christ's life is well into Jesus' 3 year public ministry. Jesus had at this point in time already gained many enemies especially within the Jewish religious leadership. Jesus had used some descriptive words like hypocrites, vipers, empty tombs and others to describe the religious elite and they were aggressively planning His demise.

In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus had been teaching the crowds that were following Him a number of things and at the end of chapter 24, He began to talk about what life would be like while He is away and two approaches by which believers could and would choose to live their lives.



## Passage

### Matt 24:45-51

**24:45-51** Who then is a faithful and wise [sensible, thoughtful] servant, whom his lord hath made ruler [manager] over his household, to give them meat [food] in due season [when needed]? **46** Blessed [extremely fortunate] is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. **47** Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler [manager] over all his goods [property]. **48** But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; **49** And shall begin to smite [beat] his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken [*partiers*]; **50** The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, [*arrive when he's not expecting*] **51** And shall cut him asunder [in pieces], and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites [*assign him a place with hypocrites*]: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

This is a familiar passage that offers insight to the concept of **stewardship**. Stewardship, very basically defined, is *the taking care of or management of another's belongings or property*. Luke also made record of this message that Jesus gave on stewardship in Luke 12:41-48. In fact Luke used the word "steward" which in the original language means "manager". **Stewardship is management.**

### Passage Questions

1. In verses 45 and 46, how are "managers" who please their masters identified? **Managers who are pleasing to their masters are identified by faithful and thoughtful actions and care for others. Additionally, their lives are visibly going very well and their needs are met.**



2. Who has the *role* or *job* of being the “manager”?  
**Believers are the managers.**
3. Who has the *role* or *job* of being the “master” or the “boss”?  
**God is the Boss.**
4. Who owns the property (verse 45)? **The Boss owns it all.**
5. How will faithful and wise managers be rewarded (verse 47)? **In addition to their lives going very well by God’s hand, they will be granted more of the Boss’ property to manage.**
6. What can change this arrangement of blessing and reward for the Boss’ managers (verse 48)? **If a manager, at any given time, chooses to think that the Boss isn’t around or isn’t coming soon, and begins to live his life based on that evil mindset, then the blessings and rewards will stop.**
7. What evil actions follow an improper mindset about the Boss (verse 49)? **The manager who is acting on an evil mindset will be abusive in relationships and in pursuing pleasure.**
8. When the Boss arrives, what happened to the unfaithful manager (verse 51)? **The Boss cut the manager into pieces – He shredded him, and assigned him a place among the hypocrites.**
9. Why do you think the unfaithful manager was “assigned a place among the hypocrites”? **A hypocrite acts differently on the outside than he is on the inside. When we remember it is our heavenly Father who we are managing for, to act like anything but a child of God, we are not showing on the outside what has happened to our born-again-spirit on the inside.**



## *Passage Summary*

Jesus described the “Boss and manager” relationship between God and believers. The believer who remembers he is managing God’s property throughout the course of his life will receive blessing and more of God’s stuff to manage.

**Transition** But how does Jesus’ teaching help Christians understand the role they play in their own lives today?

## *Application*

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Jesus’ story revealed a **mindset** that believers must **embrace daily** if they are to not only please their heavenly Father but experience **peace** and **fulfillment** in their relationship with Him.

And this mindset actually answers the question of what role we play in our own lives if we are not to play the part of the Boss.

### ***The mindset is this:***

Christians must see themselves as MANAGERS of God’s assets and remember that they WILL be held accountable for HOW they managed the things they’ve been entrusted with.

*I have to remind myself – you have to remind yourself:*

GOD is the BOSS. I am only MANAGING the things He has allowed into my life. They are NOT my things, they are God’s. And the Boss could show up to evaluate my management activities at ANY moment.



**Every choice** that Christians have been empowered by their God-given-free-will to make, must be approached with the **mindset** that the Boss, Jesus Christ Himself, could show up at any minute and **“review our performance”** as managers.

**It only makes sense** – because we are not the boss of our lives and God IS, it is actually illogical for us to determine agendas and plans for our lives independent from what God’s plan and purpose for our lives is.

- We don’t know all things but God does.
- We aren’t all powerful to execute a plan to perfection but God is.
- We aren’t all loving and therefore can’t accomplish our personal agendas without hurting others but God can because He is love.

**It makes perfectly good sense** to get on board with God’s plan and agenda for our lives, and then put our managerial skills to work.

*So where do we begin right now? What is the first thing the Boss would have us do this morning?*

The first thing we must do is figure out where our mindset is today, right now, this morning.

**And we can ask ourselves some questions that will help reveal where we are at:**

- 1.** (Matthew 24:48) When planning to do something or make a decision about something, do I think something like this?  
“Well, the rapture’s probably not going to happen right now, and God never said I wasn’t supposed to enjoy things in this life.”    *Yes*    *No*



2. (Matthew 24:49a) Do I regularly experience frustration or stress in various relationships with others as a result of something that I think *they* are doing wrong? *Yes No*

3. (Matthew 24:49b) Am I frequently trying to figure out ways to “reward” myself or “escape” with some enjoyable or pleasurable thing or activity and find myself thinking about the “next” thing or activity before the first one is over? *Yes No*

**If you answered “Yes” to any of the above**, you may have unknowingly (or knowingly) assumed the role of the boss of your life and this is why you are experiencing guilt, frustration, stress, and a constant need for more fun, pleasure, or escape in your life. *So what can you do?*

**Here’s an acronym to help us remember: C-A-P**

**Confess** (1 John 1:9) Admit your sin to God and He’ll restore fellowship in your relationship with Him.

**Ask** (Matthew 21:22) Ask God to help you keep the mindset that He is Boss for all future decisions.

**Perform** (James 2:20) *Stop* performing like the boss of your life and *start* performing like a manager of the things the real Boss has entrusted you with.

**If you answered “No” to the 3 questions above**, then you are ready to **advance** in your position as **manager** of your life while allowing God to be Boss (Matthew 24:47).

The question that naturally follows is, “Just what does the Boss (God) expect from me as a manager of His stuff?”



And that's exactly what we'll be looking at in the next 4 studies. We will investigate the Boss' expectations on key areas of responsibility He has entrusted to each of our lives.

Try not to miss a single study but if you do, you will be able to download the entire series from the church website.

## *Call to Action*

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### What can we do THIS WEEK?

- 1. Determine** where I am really at with who is boss of my life and **confess, ask, and perform** (C-A-P) as God leads me.
- 2. Realize** that just as we mature physically we change, and the same is true for us spiritually. If we are maturing in our relationship with God, then we are changing. If we're not changing, we're not growing. So get ready for God to change us to what He needs us to be.
- 3. Prepare** to enjoy true satisfaction and fulfillment, peace, and more adventures as God entrusts your improving management skills to handle more exciting adventures!

the  
**Boss**  
of me

