

Remember Who You Answer To
Colossians 4:!
April 12, 2026

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Colossians 4:1 (ESV)
Masters, treat your bondservants justly.

MAIN THEME

The Bible reveals a God who cares deeply for people who are overlooked or mistreated. Throughout Scripture he defends the poor, protects the vulnerable, and values every person because they are made in his image.

In Colossians 4:1 the apostle Paul reminds masters that their authority over others is not absolute. They must treat those under their care justly and fairly because they themselves have a Master in heaven.

This verse teaches that authority is a gift from God. Whether someone is a parent, employer, teacher, or leader, they are responsible to use their influence in a way that reflects God's character.

One day every believer will stand before Christ and give an account for how they treated the people he entrusted to them. Remembering who our true Master is should shape the way we lead, serve, and care for others every day.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Authority Is a Gift, Not a Right

Colossians 4:1; Romans 13:1; James 3:1

- Why is it important to remember that authority ultimately comes from God?
- How can authority become dangerous when someone forgets they are accountable to God?
- In what ways can people misuse authority in families, workplaces, or churches?
- How can remembering that Christ is our Master change the way we lead others?



2. Treat People Justly and Fairly

Colossians 4:1; Psalm 72:12–14; Micah 6:8

- What does it mean to treat people “justly and fairly”?
- Why does God care so deeply about how the vulnerable are treated?
- Why is favoritism a common temptation for people in authority?
- How can leaders reflect God’s righteousness in everyday decisions?

3. Leadership Reveals the Condition of the Heart

Matthew 7:16; Luke 6:45; Philippians 2:3–4

- How does the way someone treats others reveal what is going on in their heart?
- Why can authority sometimes expose pride or selfishness?
- What are practical ways leaders can practice humility and servant-hearted leadership?
- Why is it important for Christian leaders to regularly examine their own hearts?

4. One Day We Will Answer to Our True Master

Colossians 4:1; 1 Corinthians 3:10–15; Romans 14:10–12

- What does the Bible teach about believers giving an account to Christ?
- Why is this not a judgment about salvation but about faithfulness?
- How should the reality of standing before Christ shape the way we treat others today?
- What areas of your leadership or influence might God be calling you to change?

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for reminding us that you are the true Master over every part of our lives. Forgive us for the times we misuse authority, act selfishly, or fail to treat others with justice and compassion. Help us to remember that every person is created in your image and precious in your sight. Give us humble hearts that lead with fairness, kindness, and servant-minded love. Teach us to steward the influence you have given us wisely so that our lives reflect the character of Christ. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- **Psalm 72:12–14** — God’s compassion for the weak and needy
- **Micah 6:8** — What the Lord requires: justice, mercy, humility



- **Matthew 20:25-28** — Jesus teaches servant leadership
- **1 Corinthians 3:10-15** — Believers giving an account of their work
- **James 3:1** — The responsibility that comes with leadership

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

"Devote Yourself to Prayer"
Colossians 4:2-6

