

**Subject:** Trained In The Kingdom  
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# St Francis



January 28, 2015

## Trained In The Kingdom

*Therefore every scribe who has been trained in the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out his treasure what is new and what is old.*

*Matthew 13:52*

### **Leadership**

The picture Jesus gives us in this short parable is about someone who has a certain set of responsibilities, namely, the master of a house. The idea that jumps most immediately to mind is that of a leader. A master of a house, whether it is an actual family house, a retail business, a school, etc., would be the leader, the one in charge, the boss. Most of us think the leader is

someone who is hired from the outside, solves certain problems or handles certain situations perhaps forcefully if needed, and then at sometime in the future moves on. I have, however, recently heard a presentation by Justin Lewis-Anthony, Dean of Students at Virginia Theological Seminary, about leadership. I was deeply impressed by his thought and started to read his book [You are the Messiah and I Should Know It: Why Leadership Is A Myth And Probably A Heresy.](#) He gives a compelling critique of current ideas of leadership, especially church leadership, and provides an alternative. He has really got me thinking.

### ***An Alternate View***

The master of the house described by Jesus has two specific things going on. The account in Matthew 13:51+52 tells us the master of the house is trained in the kingdom of God. that is unlike being trained in anything else. It is being trained in joining with Jesus in His mission. In short, it is being trained as a disciple. The second item is this- the master of the house brings out the old and the new from the storehouse. Everything, in other words, is valued and valuable. Everything is brought forward in its time and contributes to the welfare of the entire household. This is a different picture of a leader than the one which is culturally familiar. This is not a leader who comes in from some where else, takes care of problems at any cost, and then moves on. This is the leader who knows everyone in the group, or makes sure everyone is known. Everyone is encouraged to grow in who they are and excel in their gifts. Everyone encourages everyone else because of the way the master of the house runs the household. There is something very good about that model.

### ***Working With The Steward***

Another word for "master" in this case is "steward." A steward does not own anything in the house, but arranges for everything to be working together very well. Would you pray for that kind of discipleship and generous spirit to spread throughout the church so that the kingdom will spread throughout the world?

## **Coming Attractions**

***Sunday, February 1, 2015*** worship at 10:00am

***Sunday, February 8, 2015*** worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck.

***Meeting of the Garden*** immediately after pot luck on February 8. It is time to make plans for planting in March.

***Wednesday, February 12, 2015*** at 4:00pm vestry meeting.

***Please bring nonperishable food*** to donate to the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services Food Pantry every Sunday. Please leave your donations in the bin found in the vestibule.

### ***Centerville Circle of Prayer***

For JJ's Seafood, Jason Cuthrell, owner, that this business would grow and serve many families in our area.

### ***Metropolitan Richmond***

For the coming of God's Kingdom in Metropolitan Richmond: For a Spirit of unity and cooperation among all people in all jurisdictions and that all would earnestly seek the common welfare of this metropolitan city.

**Diocese of Virginia**

For the congregations and clergy of Grace, Casanova; St. Stephen's, Catlett; St. Matthew's, Richmond; Trinity, Highland Springs that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**A note from Richard and Hedy Walker**

Thank you for the wonderful support and condolences given to us last week at the passing of Hedy's mother, Jean Guererra. We are so blessed to have such a caring and supportive church family in St. Francis. Our thanks and love to you all.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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