

## The Unjust Steward and True Riches

Luke 16:1-15

### The Parable of the Unjust Steward

<sup>1</sup> He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. <sup>2</sup> So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' <sup>3</sup> "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.'

<sup>5</sup> "So he called every one of his master's debtors to *him*, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' <sup>8</sup> So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.

<sup>9</sup> "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. <sup>10</sup> He who is faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much. <sup>11</sup> Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

### Derision of the Pharisees

<sup>14</sup> Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

### Questions:

1. In vs 1 is there is a connection between this chapter and the preceding one in Luke 15? We are told Jesus is speaking to His disciples, but who also is listening? (see vs 14-15)
2. What is a steward, and what were his duties in the master's house? What accusation was made against this steward?
3. How did the master respond to the steward? What problem did the steward see he had to quickly do something about?
4. Realizing he was going to lose his job, what was his plan to prepare for his future? How could it help him to call in every single debtor and let them know he was reducing their debt?
5. For what did his master commend him? (vs 8) Is Jesus commending dishonesty? (What one good quality did this man have?)
6. Why does Jesus say the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light? (They aren't wiser in choosing to live for earthly things over what is eternal, so how are they wiser?)
7. What is the bottom line meaning of vs 9? How can we make use of "unrighteous mammon" or money to plan ahead and make friends who can receive us into an everlasting home? Who would these friends be?
8. Verses 10-13 almost sound like proverbs of the New Testament. How does this relate to the saying "the man who can be trusted in small things can be promoted to large responsibilities"? How does this apply to our use of money?
9. If our salvation is based on submitting our life to God and being faithful to Christ, is the way a Christian uses our money important to God as long as we give a portion of our income?
10. Vs 13 is one of the best known verses about money (with others like 1 Tim 6:10; Heb 13:5) -- why can't a man serve two masters?
11. How did the Pharisees react after hearing all this Jesus said about the proper use of money? What does deride mean?
12. If Jesus was teaching these things to His disciples (vs 1), why does He conclude with such a strong statement directly singling out the Pharisees in vs 15?