

Lesson Five: The Parable of the Unjust Steward

Lesson Text: Luke 16:1-14

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1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

5 So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

6 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

7 Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

14 And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. (KJV)

1. Why did the master call his steward before him?
2. What is a steward? What was a steward's task? What authority did a steward have?
3. Upon learning that his stewardship would soon be terminated, what alternatives did the steward consider? Why did he reject each of these?
4. What was the steward's ultimate course of action? How would it solve his problems?
5. Why did the master commend him even though the steward was still cheating him?
6. How do you reconcile Jesus telling His followers to be like an unjust man?
7. In what way(s) are we to be like the steward?
8. What is the "unrighteous mammon?"
9. What are "true riches?"
10. Why is it impossible to serve two masters?