

The Parable of the Unjust Steward

LUKE 16:1 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. ² 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.’ ³ “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. ⁴ I have 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 master’s debtors to *him*, and said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ So he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷ 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.’ ⁸ 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.

⁹ “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail [*it fails*], they may receive you into an everlasting home [*abode, dwelling place, tabernacle*]. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what 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 be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**” ¹⁴ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. ¹⁵ 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.

MATT 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness! ²⁴ “No one 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.**

²⁵ “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?...

³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

1 Cor. 4:1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

*Whatever we have in this life, the ownership of it is God's. We have only the use of it according to the direction of our Lord, all to His honor and glory. The steward in Luke 16:1-12 wasted his lord's goods. We can do the same, if we neglect our responsibility to properly care for what God has trusted us with. The steward, after hearing he was losing his job, decided to make friends with his lord's debtors by lowering their debts. By doing this, he hoped they would receive him into their homes. His lord, in turn, commended him for his shrewdness and his prudence. Worldly men are often foolish, but in their activities and perseverance, they are generally shrewder than believers, who are the children of light. However, when we seek after the true riches, the eternal riches, we are exercising true wisdom! Let us be faithful by using "unrighteous mammon" to make friends with others, especially the household of faith. **"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith"** (Gal. 6:10). **"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister"** (Heb. 6:10). God promises that when we care for others, whether it's with our time, our service, our money, our personal gifts, or our possessions, after the mammon of unrighteousness fails, we will be received into eternal tabernacles, which means eternal dwelling places. This makes us **"rich toward God"** (Luke 12:21).*

Eph. 3:8 – Paul preached the unsearchable **riches** of Christ!

Rom. 10:12 – The Lord is **rich** to all who call upon Him.

Rom. 11:33 – "Oh, the depth of the **riches** both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"

Eph. 2:4 – God is **rich** in mercy.

Eph. 2:7 – The exceeding **riches** of His grace.

Heb. 11:26 – The reproach of Christ greater **riches** than the treasures of Egypt.

A WARNING TO THOSE WHO WANT TO BE RICH

1 Tim. 6:5 ...useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of gain*. From such withdraw yourself. ⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (See also vv. 17-19).