

THE UNRIGHTEOUS STEWARD

Luke 16: 1- 13

By Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION:

1. The STEWARD was one who had charge of the rich man's goods.
 - (1) His lord's debtors were responsible to the steward; the steward to the rich man or lord.
 - (2) The rich man's dismissal of the steward was on the charge of extravagance -- Luke 16: 1 - 2
 - (3) The steward's perplexity -- Luke 16:3
 1. He asked himself the question, "*What shall I do?*"
 2. His life of luxury had unfitted him for hard work -- "*I cannot dig.*"
 3. He was too proud to beg -- Luke 16:3
 - (4) The steward's prudent attention to the future -- Luke 16: 4 - 7
 1. He won for himself a home with his Lord's debtors, by reducing their bills.
 - (5) The steward commended -- Luke 16:8
 1. Not for his extravagance
 2. Not for his dishonesty
 3. But, for his prudence
 4. Because of his promptness to act
 5. Because he acted with zeal and heartiness

I. THE PARABLE CONTAINS TWO MAJOR LESSONS

1. FIRST -- a contrast is made between the children of the world and the children of light.
 - (1) The men of the world have their heart set on the things of the world.
 - (2) The children of light have their affections on things above -- Col. 3: 1 - 2
 - (3) "*The children of the world are in their own generation wiser than the children of light*" -- Luke 16:8
 1. Men of the world are more wise in laying their plans to ensure success -- many times children of light have no real plans.
 2. Men of the world are more warm and ardent in pursuing their plans.
 - (1) All their energies are brought to bear upon them.
 - (2) Children of light are often listless, cold and formal.
 - (4) Men of the world are more diligent
 1. They rise early and sit up late to follow out their plans.
 2. They allow nothing to divert them.
 3. They make ease, pleasure and recreation subordinate to their worldly objects.

4. Children of light, often careless, let ease, pleasure and recreation come before their plans -- Matt. 6:33

(5) Men of the world are often more self-denying and persevering.

1. They overcome difficulties, make any sacrifice, and toil like slaves without interruption for months and years until the object is realized.

2. Children of light many times want to deny themselves nothing and make no sacrifice.

2. SECOND, an emphasis is placed on the danger of the love of money and of unfaithfulness in little things --

Luke 16: 9 - 12

(1) The wealth of the world belongs to God -- I Cor. 10:26; Psa. 24:1

(2) The wealth of the world is committed to us as a stewardship.

(3) The wealth we have must be properly used, or God will not give us those things of greater value -- Luke 16: 10 - 11; Mk. 10: 21 - 22

II. AN ADMONITION --MAKE FRIENDS OF THE MAMMON OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS -- Luke 16:9

1. In other words -- knowing that our stewardship will soon end, let us use our money in gaining heaven.

(1) There are three possible uses to make of wealth:

1. Like the prodigal son, we may waste it -- Luke 15: 11 - 13

2. Like the rich fool, we may hoard it -- Luke 12: 16 - 21

3. Like the steward of this lesson, we may, with our wealth, gain a wonderful home -- I Tim. 6:19

III. A GREAT LESSON WE LEARN FROM THIS PARABLE IS -- THE TIME FOR US TO PREPARE FOR THINGS OF GREAT VALUE IS NOW!

1. We should use our time NOW -- Eph. 5:16

2. We should use our talents NOW -- Matt. 25: 14 - 30

3. We should use our money NOW -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2

4. We should use our influence NOW -- Matt. 5: 13 - 16

CONCLUSION

(Underwood Hts. 1976)