

The Unjust Steward

[Luke 16:1-13]

Luke 16:1-7 [NIV] “Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? **Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.**’ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg, I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ “‘Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘**Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.**’ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘**Take your bill and make it eight hundred.**’”

Note this parable was directed to Christ’s disciples, that is, true Christians.

The rich man had received inside information as to the mismanagement of his property by his manager.

The manager was called to give account of his dealings and was given the sack.

Notice after this the manager “*said to himself,*” he was using his natural human wisdom that is based on self-preservation.

The steward continued to use his authority before word of his dismissal became known.

Note also the steward got each debtor to re-write their own legal agreements with his master.

Using instant human wisdom the steward had made each debtor a partner in his continued deception of his master.

Therefore they could never disclose this continued deception without involving themselves in the crime.

Luke 16:8 [Phillips Translation] “*Now the master praised this rascally steward because he had been so careful for his own future for **the children of this world are considerably more shrewd in their way than the children of light** [Christians].*”

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 [NIV] “**Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God, that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”**

Paul realised that the vast majority of those whom God is calling at this time lacked worldly wisdom.

Why did God do this?

Those with worldly wisdom are too proud to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ and depend on His mercy, love and godly wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1:24-25 [NIV] *“but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For **the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.**”*

The wisdom we can receive from God through the study and meditation on His Word, the Christian Bible, can be ours through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Luke 16:9 [Phillips Translation] *“Now my advice to you is to use money, tainted as it is, to make yourself friends, so that when it comes to an end [this world’s society], they, [the friends you have spent your money to make] may welcome you into eternal habitations.”*

What did Jesus Christ mean by friends?

John 15:13-16 [NIV] *“**Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.**”*

When we lay down our life, that is our time and our wealth, for the work that we have been given by Jesus Christ [read **Matthew 28:16-20**] we will become the friend of Jesus Christ and **lead other humans to seek His friendship.**

Now we can understand why Jesus was giving this parable to His disciples.

We as true Christians are to use our wealth, which we could so easily covet as this steward did until he lost his job, to make everlasting friends.

Matthew 6:19-21 [NIV] *“**Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**”*

When we do this it will become our heart’s desire to continue this work of love.

Matthew 6:33 [NIV] *“**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**”*

With this attitude of mind God will provide all we need in our physical life.

Luke 16:10-13 [Phillips Translation] *“**The man who is faithful in the little things will be faithful in the big things, and the man who cheats in the little things will cheat in the big things too. So if you are not fit to be trusted to deal with the wicked wealth of this world, who will trust you with the true riches? And if you are not trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? No servant can serve two masters. He is bound to hate one and love the other, or give his loyalty to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and worship money at the same time.**”*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 [NIV] *“**Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.**”*

As Christians we are “*someone else’s property*,” we belong to God, and are the vehicle through whom the Holy Spirit wants to fulfil the Work of God, to create human beings into the “*likeness*” that is character of the Creator God [read **Genesis 1:26-27** – only “*image*” physically created, **not** character.]

When will Christians have “*property of your own?*”

Revelation 1:4-6 [NIV] *“John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and **has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father**, to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”*

“Priests” refers to teachers in modern language, priests were and still are teachers in the Jewish culture.

Revelation 20:11-13 [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. **And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.** Another book was opened, which is the book of life. **The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.** The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”*

Here we see the teaching situation for those whom God has appointed as first resurrected Christians. To teach all who have never known the true Creator God and His Word the Christian Bible, referred to in this scripture as the books that were opened to them for the first time.

Let every true Christian be wise stewards of our master’s possessions now that we will be well prepared to be trusted to teach other human beings in the future.

Teach these resurrected human beings why they were given physical life and how they can qualify to be given the gift of eternal life.

My personal goal for this website is to make many friends for Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit works in and through me, seeking to be a faithful bond slave of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-10 [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. **For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**”*

Please join me in **your** personal job that Jesus Christ has given you, to bring more people to become His friends.