

## Luke 16:1-15 **Crafty Servant Commended**

<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."

<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. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

#### Shrewdness of The Unrighteous Steward

- ✚ The man did wrong, was caught, and lost his job. [Luke 16:1-2]
- ✚ Before he left, the steward changed the debt owed by the man's debtors in favor of the debtors. [Luke 16:3-4, 5-7]
  - ✧ The purpose of his action was to pad the fall and hopefully find a place for himself when he has left his present position. [Luke 16:4]
- ✚ So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. [Luke 16:8]
  - ✧ For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. [Luke 16:8]
  - ✧ The sons of light have their focus on the Kingdom of God and therefore are not as crafty pertaining to things of this world as are the unsaved who are entirely focused on what they can get in this world.
- ✚ Speaking to the unsaved, Jesus said, "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home." [Luke 16:9]

- ✧ In other words use your money to make friends with those with whom you are bound to spend eternity. This is evident by the use of the terms, "unrighteous mammon" and "everlasting home."

### The conclusion Jesus drew of the story

- ✧ 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. [\[Luke 16:10\]](#)
  - ✧ The nature of the person does not change according to the amount entrusted to him.
- ✧ Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? [\[Luke 16:11-12\]](#)
  - ✧ Your eternal reward will be in keeping with your character displayed by your behavior with what has been entrusted to you in this life.
- ✧ 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 (wealth). [\[Luke 16:13\]](#)
  - ✧ Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." [\[Matthew 6:21, Luke 12:34\]](#)
  - ✧ If your money is spent entirely on earthly things and personal pleasure, your heart is not on Heavenly things.
  - ✧ You cannot serve God and mammon (wealth).
- ✧ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.
  - ✧ It is so characteristic of human nature to ridicule a teaching when it hits home and you feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit in your conscience.
- ✧ 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.
  - ✧ Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites because they made a great showing to impress people of their spirituality but did not live lives of righteousness in the heart. [\[Matthew 23:23, 27, Luke 11:42, 16:15\]](#)
  - ✧ The truth is that God does know the heart of each individual, and He compares our valuation with His own only to find our valuation wanting by our own lusts and desires which are abominable in His sight.
  - ✧ We value wealth, God values righteousness.