

The Gospel According To

LUKE

Faithful Stewards Who Invest for Eternity

Luke 16:1-18



The Parable of the Dishonest Manager (16:1-13)

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| The audience: | His disciples |
| The setting: | The manager of a rich man is fired for squandering his possessions (vv1-2) |
| The manager's dilemma: | What will I do to take care of myself now? (v3) |
| The manager's scheme: | Gain the favor of those in debt to his master (v4) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He offers a 50% discount to one who owed much olive oil (vv5-6)• He offers a 20% discount to one who owed even more wheat (v7) |
| The rich man's response: | He praises the manager for acting shrewdly! (v8a) |

The Parable of the Dishonest Manager (16:1-13)

Jesus' point about worldly people:

- They commonly act toward each other with more intention and insight for future gain than followers of Christ (v8b)

Jesus' instruction to His disciples:

- Use earthly wealth to gain and bless friends who will welcome you into eternity (v9)
- Develop the character of faithfulness in using possessions for eternal purposes, regardless of the size of those possessions (vv10-12)
- Be fully devoted from the heart in serving God as your master, allowing no affection for serving money (v13)

The Heart of the Pharisees and Those Like Them (vv14-18)

They love money, not God (v14a)

2 Timothy 3:2-4 ²For men will be lovers of self, **lovers of money**, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure **rather than lovers of God**,

The Heart of the Pharisees and Those Like Them (vv14-18)

They love money, not God (v14a)

They reject the very Word of God (v14b)

Jesus' words of correction to them (vv15-18):

- You justify yourself, seeking the honor and approval of men (v15a)*

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Habakkuk 2:4 ...the righteous will live by his faith.

Romans 5:1 ¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 10:3 ³For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

The Heart of the Pharisees and Those Like Them (vv14-18)

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They reject the very Word of God (v14b)

Jesus' words of correction to them (vv15-18):

- You justify yourself, seeking the honor and approval of men (v15a)*
- God knows what is inside your heart – the real you (v15b)*
- God detests what you highly esteem (v15c)*
- In contrast to you, God never changes, and His Law is perfectly fulfilled in my gospel (vv16-18)*

Closing Reflections

- Is your heart focused on using money and possessions (whether great or small) to build up Christ's kingdom and people, or to build up yourself on earth?
- Beware of the constant threat to love money – if this is your pattern of life, you don't love God and must confess it and repent
- Do you seek to justify yourself before God by your external works, or are you justified by God according to faith in the person and work of Christ?
- Are you fooling yourself and others about being a disciple of Christ? God knows your heart!
- Do you ever doubt or mock God's Word? It is true in every detail!