

Luke 16:1-13INTRODUCTION

1. The three preceding parables of Luke 15 were spoken to the murmuring Pharisees, while the one of our lesson tonight is spoken to the disciples.
2. The Lord speaks of a wealthy landowner who has a steward that has a large and discretionary power over his master's estate.
3. In time the steward was accused to his master as having wasted his goods and he is called to account by his master and is peremptorily dismissed. With this dismissal there comes into view the adroitness of the man.
 1. He wishes to have some good friends who can do him a good turn when he is out of a situation.
 2. Before news of his dismissal reaches any, while it is yet supposed that he has full power, he calls together those who are in arrears on their accounts. Two examples are given:
 - (1) First, imagine the greetings to these men as given by the steward.
 - A. How bland and smiling is the steward, and how really warm the greeting.
 - B. How kind the inquiries as to the welfare of wife and children.
 - C. How is your business, your crops, weather conditions ETC.
 - (2) Now the moment has arrived for the question: "By the way, what is the amount of your obligation to my lord?"
 - (3) The answer comes back: "One hundred measures of oil." The solution: "Take thy bill and write fifty." Verse 6 *8 1/2 galn. to measure*
 "An hundred measures of wheat." The solution: "Take thy bill and write four score." Verse 7 *10 to 11 bushels to a measure of wheat*
4. THE COMMENDATION OF THIS UNJUST STEWARD "And the lord commended the unjust steward because he had done wisely." Verse 8 WHY? The reason:
 1. A true child of this world is thorough-going, active, persevering. When he has made up his mind that this or that thing is desirable he sets his heart upon having it.
 2. Mammon is the god he has chosen for himself and he serves his god as a god ought to be served. He serves his god with all his heart, with all his mind, and with all his strength. He is wise therefore in his way. "For the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." Verse 8.

TURN NOW TO THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT

1. Tell me can you see the same marks of wisdom in them?
 1. Do the children of light serve God as he should be served: With all of one's heart;
 With all of one's mind;
 With all of one's strength.
 2. Do we display these marks of wisdom in our service to God?
 3. The children of light, CHRISTIANS, are here rebuked and told that they are not at half the pains to win heaven, which the men of this world exercise to win earthly things.
 4. We need to know that nothing is more unworthy, nothing more ruinous, than to be a Christian by halves; to begin to build and not be able to finish. Luke 14:28: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"

THIS PARABLE IS A CHALLENGE TO RESOURCEFUL ZEAL

1. The children of this world.
 1. The worldling in pursuit of money shows a consuming eagerness. He labors early and late. The "sons of this age" in pursuit of pleasure show no lack of ardor. The labor required in the pursuit of pleasure is not considered arduous at all. IS GOLF HIS PLEASURE? If so:
 - (1) He will stint no money for clubs or instruction.
 - (2) He will study the mysteries of stance, grip, swing, and follow.
 - (3) He will recite the incantations of the game repeatedly, "KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL."
 - (4) If they fail a hundred times they return with courage renewed, resolved to achieve.
 - (5) Barriers do not daunt them; for they are erected to be overcome.
 - (6) The children of this world appear more in earnest in their search after what they desire than do the children of light.

THIS PARABLE IS A CHALLENGE TO RESOURCEFUL ZEAL, Continued:

2. The children of light AND THEIR USE OF MONEY. "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon (money) of unrighteousness..." Luke 16:9
 1. We cannot make friends of the mammon of unrighteousness by lowering the standard of righteousness and obedience as seems to be indicated in the lowering of the bills.
 2. We cannot dodge a responsibility by allowing men to say, "It is a gift" Matt. 15:5, 6
 3. How many opportunities are missed by dilatory Christians to make friends (good and right use) of the mammon of unrighteousness. Opportunities missed:
 - (1) of Laying up treasures in heaven.
 - (2) Of making friends for time to come by showing active love to poor saints and to all men. Gal. 6:10

THIS PARABLE IS A CHALLENGE TO FORESIGHT

1. The unjust steward
 1. The unjust steward considered his future. He resisted the temptation to thrust from his mind his imminent dismissal.
 2. He said, "WHEN THE BLOW FALLS, I must still live, and I must decide now how I shall live."
2. But what of the children of light?
 1. Do they plan as this child of the world did, that they may be received into their houses?
 2. The children of God here are admonished to imitate the zeal, the perseverance, the prudence, the courage, and even the wisdom which the children of the world show in their pursuit of their vain, perishable, ruinous and deadly objects. LET US BE AS ACTIVE AND DETERMINED TO PLEASE GOD AS THEY ARE TO PLEASE THEMSELVES.

ARE THE CHILDREN OF THIS WORLD REALLY WISE?

1. They are not, for their wisdom is only toward their generation. They draw the circle premature. They have no horizon city. They do not see the king in his beauty, or the land that reacheth afar. Isaiah 33:17: Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.
2. But there are elect souls:
 1. Who pursue God with as consuming a zeal, as fearless a reality, as resourceful a foresight as a miser pursues wealth, or a worldling his world.
 2. In so living they are making unto themselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness and by the glow of confidence and love heaven becomes homelike "that, when ye fail (when ye die) they may receive you into everlasting habitations." Who are the "THEY?"
 - (1) God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, coupled with those poor who have been succored, the sorrowing who have been comforted, the little children who have been furnished a home, all being brought to Christ will greet you when your feet touch the shore on the other side of the river.

Church of Christ

17200 WEST OUTER DRIVE DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

- 1. We cannot make friends of the nation of righteousness by lowering the standard of righteousness and obedience as seems to be indicated in the lowering of the hills.
- 2. We cannot bring a responsibility by allowing men to say, "It is a gift."
- 3. How many opportunities are missed by dilatory Christians to make friends (good and true) of the nation of righteousness. Opportunities missed:
 - (1) of having my business in heaven.
 - (2) of making friends for time to come by showing active love to poor sinners and to all men.

THIS PARABLE IS A CHALLENGE TO FORESIGHT

- 1. The unjust steward
- 1. The unjust steward considered his future. He realized the temptation to Christ from the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- 2. He said, "WHEN THE BLOW FALLS, I MUST STILL LIVE, AND I MUST DECIDE NOW HOW I SHALL LIVE."
- 3. But what of the children of light?
 - 1. We may plan as the child of the world did, that they may be received into their houses.
 - 2. The children of God here are admonished to imitate the zeal, the perseverance, the guidance, the courage, and even the wisdom which the children of the world show in the pursuit of their vain, perishable, without and earthly objects. LET US BE AS ACTIVE AND DETERMINED TO PLEASE GOD AS THEY ARE TO PLEASE THEMSELVES.

ARE THE CHILDREN OF THIS WORLD REALLY WISE?

- 1. They are not, for their wisdom is only toward their generation. They draw the circle of their wisdom, they have no horizon city. They do not see the King in his beauty, or the land that reacheth unto the ends of the earth. Their eyes shall see the King in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.
- 2. But what are their souls?
 - 1. Who pursue God with as consuming a zeal, as fear as a reality, as resolute a foresight as a man pursues wealth, or a worldlying the world.
 - 2. In so living they are making into themselves friends of the nation of righteousness and by the glow of confidence and love heaven becomes homelike "right when ye fall" (as ye die) they may receive you into everlasting habitations. Who are the "THEIR"?
 - (1) God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, coupled with those poor who have been burdened, the sorrowful who have been comforted, the little children who have been furnished a home, all being brought to Christ will greet you when you next touch the shore on the other side of the river.