

A close-up photograph of a golden wheat field. The wheat stalks are ripe and yellow, with some green leaves still visible. A path or furrow runs through the center of the field, leading the eye towards the background. The lighting is bright, creating a warm, golden glow.

# The Steward's Sermon

Luke 16:1-13





# The Crisis

- Stewardship

- Luke 16:1-3 - “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. 2 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. 3 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.”



# The Crisis

- A steward is one who manages another's property, finances, and organizes his local activities.
  - Abraham's steward sent to get a wife for Isaac - Gen. 15:2
  - Joseph was Potiphar's steward responsible for everything in his house - Gen. 39:4-9
  - Often stewards were slaves, but this steward was very likely a hired man





## The Crisis

- Mismanagement: “wasted” his master’s goods; dissipated, squandered, and may have embezzled his master’s money
- Perhaps similar to the prodigal son who wasted his inheritance with uncontrolled spending - Luke 15:13





# The Crisis

- **Accountability:** the master demanded an account of his stewardship and dismissed him
- **Predicament:** he was unemployed and too weak or aged for manual labor, and too proud to beg





# The Clarification

- Resolution
  - Luke 16:4 - “I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.”
- Action
  - Luke 16:5-7 - “So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, How much do you owe my master? 6 And he said, A hundred measures of oil. So he said to him, Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty. 7 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”



# The Clarification

- A measure of oil = Hebrew batos = 8.75 gallons; 100 measures = 875 gallons. The debt was reduced 50%.
- A measure of wheat = Hebrew kor = 14.5 bushels. 100 measures = 1450 bushels. The debt was reduced 20%.
- This was dishonest on the part of both the steward and the debtors.



# The Consequence

- Commendation

- Luke 16:8 - “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.”
- Greek - phronimos is astute, intelligent, wise, prudent (Strong's). Such a person is mindful of dangers and enemies
- It is the opposite of moros - foolish man - Matt. 7:24-27





# The Consequence

- Application: Christian prudence. This is not an endorsement of dishonesty
- The sons of light are urged to be as wise in pursuing their eternal security as the sons of this world are in pursuing their worldly security



# What Is Christian Prudence?

- Christians are not naïve or simple-minded
  - Matt. 10:16 - “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”
  - 1Cor. 14:20 - “Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.”



# What Is Christian Prudence?

- Prov. 1:4, 22 - “To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion... 22 How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.”
- Prov. 8:5 - “O you simple ones, understand prudence, And you fools, be of an understanding heart.”
- Prov. 14:18 - “The simple inherit folly, But the prudent are crowned with knowledge.”



# What Is Christian Prudence?

- “If only the Christian was as eager and ingenious in his attempt to attain goodness as the man of the world is in his attempt to gain money and comfort, he would be a better man. If only men would give as much attention to the things which concern their souls as they do to the things which concern their business, they would be better men” (William Barclay).



# The Conclusions

- The proper place and use of money
  - Luke 16:9 - “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.”
- Money is temporary when contrasted with eternal, true riches
  - 1Tim. 6:17 - “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.”



# The Conclusions

- Money and material goods do not belong to us
  - 1Chron. 29:14 - “But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You.”
  - “We have no real title to money. Its tenure is precarious; we cannot count on it for a single day. We did not bring it into the world, nor will we take it with us when we leave. It is not a part of us; we are not a part of it. It may go any day; it will go one day” (Neil Lightfoot).





# The Conclusions

- Money must be used wisely; it is a tool, either good or bad depending on the use to which it is put. One can allow material wealth to master him, or he can master it, using it for moral and beneficial purposes

– Matt. 25:31-46



# The Conclusions

- Faithfulness in stewardship and service
  - Luke 16:10-13 - “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. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? 13 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.”



# The Conclusions

- Faithful means trustworthy, dependable, working with diligence and integrity (Strongs)
- 1Cor. 4:1-2 - “Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”
- 2Tim. 2:2 - “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”





# The Steward's Sermon

- Like the steward, we will eventually be audited by our Lord
  - Matt. 25:21 - “His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”