

Luke 16 Pt 1

Spirit Outpouring

Luke 15:1 [Hard teaching] Then all the tax collectors/sinners **drew near to Him** to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees/scribes complained, saying, "**This Man receives sinners and eats with them.**"

- **3 Parable Response** re. God's Love for the lost

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| 1. God's Flock | Incomplete w/out lost sheep |
| 2. God's Treasure | Incomplete w/out lost coin |
| 3. God's Family | Incomplete w/out lost son/daughter |

Religious Leaders Missed God's Heart

James 4:6 "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

1 Timothy 1:15... Christ **Jesus came into the world to save sinners...**

Mark 2:17 [Jesus] I did not come to **call the righteous**, but sinners, to repentance.

- Tax Collectors/Prostitutes/Thieves/Murderers
- Repentant/Ready for something New/Better...

Matthew 9:17 [No one puts] new wine into old wineskins...they put **new wine into new wineskins**, and both are preserved."

New Disciples are more than ready to be filled
Receive New Life/New Wine of the Spirit

- Little time/Much instruction...

I. Sons of Light

1 Jesus also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought re. the steward that he was wasting his master's goods. ² So his master 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.' [IOWs Wrap up the loose ends/You're fired] 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. ⁴ I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of [my job my former clients] may receive me into their houses.' ⁵ "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.**' ⁸ So the master **commended the unjust steward** because he had **dealt shrewdly.**

The steward used his master's money to set himself up for the future

- **Master commends the unjust steward? Smart move.**
- **Not for being unjust...**For being wise w/what he was entrusted with

Point of this teaching to new disciples?

Use what God gives you for His Kingdom/Your Eternal Reward

8b... For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.

The world uses worldly wisdom to set themselves up for their temporal future more shrewdly than believers use God's wisdom to set ourselves up for our eternal future. [NJC]

Luke 16:19 ...the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

So why aren't we using it...We are Children of Light

John 12:36 While you have the light believe in the light that you may become **sons of light.**

Ephesians 5:8 ...you were once darkness, but now **you are light** in the Lord. Walk as **children of light**

1 Thessalonians 5:5 You are all **sons of light** and **sons of the day**. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Children of Light Receive Gifts from the Father of Light

- **Unlimited Wisdom/Resources from Holy Spirit**

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| 1. Discretion | Knowing when/what to do |
| 2. Discernment | Knowing good from evil |
| 3. Discipline | Knowing how to act accordingly |
| 4. Divine Nature of our Father... | |

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down [lit. *keeps coming down*] from the **Father of lights**, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of **firstfruits of His creatures.**

Of all the creatures God has in this universe, Christians are the very highest and finest! [Why?] **We share in the divine nature.** For this reason it is beneath our dignity to accept Satan's bait or to desire sinful things.

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| ▪ We have been given Spiritual Light | Revelation of God's Word |
| ▪ We have been given Spiritual Gifts | Advance Kingdom/Secure Rewards |

Why does the world seem smarter/more diligent in preparing for their temporal future than we do at preparing for our eternal future? IOWs How much **could we have done** with the unlimited resources and power of the Holy Spirit that will be **left undone when we die?** [NJC]

1 Corinthians 4:1 [We are...] servants of Christ and **stewards** of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in **stewards that one be found faithful.**

9 "And I say to you, **make friends** for yourselves by unrighteous mammon [riches] that when you fail, **they may receive you** into an everlasting home.

- Make friends/disciples using what God has given us

Matthew 6:19: Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Set yourself up for your Eternal Future

Use wisdom, discretion, discernment, discipline, divine nature, dollars to win souls

- **Received w/joy in Heaven:** Angels/those saved utilizing what God provided

1 Thessalonians 2:19 ...what is our hope or joy or crown of rejoicing? [It is] **you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20** ...you are our glory and joy.

God has given us power tools to win people to the Lord
Wisdom to know what to do/Power to do it.

- **Use it or lose it...**

10 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?

- God will test us with little before giving more
- IOWs If we cant handle money how will he trust us with ministry?

12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

Are we faithful?

Using what God has given us for **His glory** to advance **His Kingdom?**

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."

- **Impossible** to serve God and Money at the same time.
- **Money:** Evil/Good depending on how we use it...
 1. **Open doors for our own purpose:** Success/pleasure/status/depravity
 2. **Open doors for the God's purpose:** Salvation of Souls
- **Unjust steward:** Set himself up for this life by using his masters resources

- **Wise steward:** Sets himself up eternally by using God's resources for others...

Matthew 25:21b ...'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.**'

- **Practical Application**

1. Buy that coffee to open the door for the Gospel \$5.00 for soul?
2. Pray about that special gift to show God's love
3. Look/Listen for needs/fill them as the Spirit leads
4. Utilize Spirit led encouraging words of wisdom

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so **shine before men**, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 2:12 [Let unbelievers] by your good works **which they observe**, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Jesus to New Disciples...

Be Creatively Sacrificial: Use God's Gifts for Others to Advance His Kingdom

II. Pressing In

14 Now the Pharisees, who were **lovers of money**, also heard all these things, and they **derided Him**.

- Insight into motivation of Religious Leaders

Matthew 23:14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you **devour widows' houses**, and for a pretense make long prayers... you will receive greater condemnation.

- Jesus still talking to His new disciples/**Pharisees eavesdropping**
- **Derided Him:** lit. turned up the nose, to sneer at, scoff at Jesus Words. Bad move

Jesus meek/mild lovingly rips them to shreds...

15 And [Jesus] said to them, "You are those who **justify yourselves** before men, but **God knows your hearts**."

- Respected by men as great teachers but in reality
 1. **Lovers of money:** Root/Beginning of ALL KINDS of evil
 2. **Self-deceived:** Pride coagulated by compliments of men
 3. **Self-Justified:** God knew better

Matthew 6:2 ...when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward...** 5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward...** 16 "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.**

- **Men's Praise:** Closest to heaven they will ever get
- **God knows their heart...**

2 Chronicles 6:30b ...You alone know the hearts of the sons of men...

Psalms 7:9b ...the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.

Proverbs 15:11 Hell and Destruction are before the Lord; So how much more the **hearts of the sons of men.**

- **Heart:** True intent/motive

1 Corinthians 4:3 ... it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, **I do not even judge myself.** 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels [motives] of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Jeremiah 17:10 I, the Lord, **search the heart, I test the mind...**

1 Samuel 16:7 ...the Lord said to Samuel [looking for a king], "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the Lord does not see as man sees*; for man looks at the outward appearance, but **the Lord looks at the heart.**"

15b ...For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Pharisees were in fact **all that God hated**

Proverbs 6:16 These six things the **Lord hates**, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

16 "The law and the prophets were until John. 17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one iota of the law to fail. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and **everyone is pressing into it.**

- **IOWs The entire Law must be kept perfectly**

You guys are pressing in on the Kingdom of Heaven claiming you keep the law? Trying to be saved by convincing others you're good people...**How 'bout this...**

- Seemingly out of the blue statement, **but not...**

18 "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.

- **Not** a teaching on marriage but self-righteousness

Mark 10:6 But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them **male and female** [Gen 2:24]. 7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore **what God has joined together, let not man separate.**"

Matthew 5:32 ...whoever divorces his wife for any reason **except sexual immorality** causes **her to commit adultery**; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced **commits adultery**.

IOWs As per God's original intent for marriage...

If you divorced for any reason other than adultery...you are still married

Why did Jesus bring up this particular offense to the religious leaders?

▪ **Ephesians 5**

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| 1. Walk in Light | vv 8-14 |
| 2. Walk in Wisdom | vv 15-21 |
| 3. Marriage | vv 22-33 |

Ephesians 5:31b ...and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning **Christ and the church**.

Why did Jesus bring up this particular offense to the religious leaders?

Marriage is a picture of Jesus relationship with His bride the Church. The Pharisees were infamous for divorcing for any reason and marring the picture God painted from the beginning. Here, they derided Jesus and His disciples because they loved money/power more than man and God and were repulsed by the grace Jesus was showing His disciples. **They were in fact all that God hated.** [NJC]

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James 4:6 "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

1 Timothy 1:15... Christ **Jesus came into the world to save sinners...**