

The Parables of Jesus

in the Gospel of Luke (13)

Luke 16:1-15

DISCUSS

What does prudence mean?

What is mammon?

DISCOVER

Focus: Through our loving the Lord and serving Him we can be freed from the bondage of unrighteous mammon and utilize it to release others from their debt and bring them into God's eternal salvation.

I. Read Luke 16:1-15. Retell the parable.

Luke 16:1 And He said also to the disciples, There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and this one was accused to him of squandering his possessions.

Luke 16:2 And he called him and said to him, What is this I hear concerning you? Render the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.

Luke 16:3 And the steward said within himself, What shall I do, because my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg.

Luke 16:4 I know what I will do so that when I am removed from the stewardship they may receive me into their own houses.

Luke 16:5 And when he had called to him each one of his master's debtors, he said to the first, How much do you owe my master?

Luke 16:6 And he said, A hundred measures of oil. And he said to him, Take your bill and sit down quickly and write fifty.

Luke 16:7 Then to another he said, And you, how much do you owe? And he said, A hundred measures of wheat. He said to him, Take your bill and write eighty.

Luke 16:8 And the master praised the unrighteous steward because he had acted prudently; for the sons of this age are more prudent in their dealings with their own generation than the sons of light.

Luke 16:9 And I say to you, Make friends for yourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they may receive you into the eternal tabernacles.

Luke 16:10 He who is faithful in the least is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in the least is unrighteous also in much.

Luke 16:11 If therefore you have not become faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you what is true?

Luke 16:12 And if you have not become faithful in that which belongs to another, who will give to you that which is your own?

Luke 16:13 No household servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 16:14 And the Pharisees, being lovers of money, heard all these things and were sneering at Him.

Luke 16:15 And He said to them, You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Who is the rich man?

What is a steward?

Who is the steward? (Ephesians 3:2)

Who are the master's debtors? (Romans 6:23)

DEEPER

DIVE

II. Read the following excerpt:

In chapter fifteen the full salvation accomplished by the Divine Trinity is clearly presented. But after this presentation the Lord Jesus does not stop speaking. Instead, He goes on to give the Pharisees another parable. In this parable we do not see salvation; we see the prudence of a steward. This indicates that after we have been received into the house of God, we should become stewards.

Mammon, that is, money, is of the satanic world. It is unrighteous in its position and existence. The steward in the parable exercised his prudence by his unrighteous act. The Lord teaches us, His believers, to exercise our prudence in the use of unrighteous mammon.

The phrase "the mammon of unrighteousness" indicates that money is not in the realm of God. Money is outside the kingdom of God; it is in the world of Satan. Therefore, money is unrighteous both in position and existence. Actually, as far as God is concerned, money should not exist. In this universe there should not be such a thing as money. If we love money, we love something that should not exist.

In verse 9 the Lord says that if we make friends by means of the mammon of unrighteousness, when it fails we shall be received into eternal tabernacles. The word "fails" indicates that when the satanic world is over, mammon will be of no use in the kingdom of God. The eternal tabernacles are the eternal habitations into which the prudent believers will be received by those who share the benefit of their prudence. This will be in the coming kingdom age (Luke 14:13-14; Matt. 10:42).

Verse 13 continues, "No household servant can serve two lords; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will cleave to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." In this verse the Greek word for "serve" means "serve as a slave." Here the Lord indicates that to serve Him requires us to love Him, giving our hearts to Him, and cleave to Him, giving our entire being to Him. Thus we are released from the occupation and usurpation of mammon so that we may serve the Lord wholly and fully. The Lord emphasizes here that to serve Him we must overcome the enticing deceitful mammon of unrighteousness.

In verse 13 we see that mammon is in rivalry with God, competing with Him. Because mammon is in rivalry with God, it is evil. On our part, we cannot serve two lords. We serve either God or mammon. This matter is very serious.

The Lord's word about money was directed especially to the Pharisees, who were lovers of money (v. 14). They pretended that they loved God and were for Him. But the Lord knew well that they were not lovers of God; they were lovers of money.

A. How can we be freed from the love of mammon?

III. Memorize Luke 16:9 and recite it to one another:

Luke 16:9 And I say to you, Make friends for yourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they may receive you into the eternal tabernacles.

DISCIPLE

What things in your life are unrighteous yet can be used to serve God?