

# Exploring the Bible Series 3: Parables Unique to the Gospel of Luke



Week 5 - The Unjust Steward  
(Luke 16:1-13)

# The CONEXT of Luke 16

- Is..... Luke 15 😊
- Note: Luke 15 is one parable
  - v.3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying...
- These are the “Parable of the **Found!**” v.5, 6, 9, 24, 32
- “Prodigal” = ‘waster’ or ‘wasteful’
  - Luke 15:13 ...the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there **wasted** his substance with riotous living.
- But what happened to the older brother??

# The story continues into Luke 16....

- “Prodigal” = ‘waster’ or ‘wasteful’
- This same Greek word is used of the “Unjust Steward” in Luke 16...
  - Luke 16:1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had **wasted** his goods.
- The Unjust Steward **IS** the Older Brother → He was also a prodigal! A “waster”!!
- Note that in Luke 16 it’s not a Father-Son relationship but a Master-Steward relationship – perhaps that’s how the Older Son felt in Luke 15 – he was ‘in the house’ but never connected with his Father in a meaningful way!
- He wasted his masters goods **INSIDE** the house!!!

# Key Points & Main Lessons

- 2Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

We will all “give  
account of our  
stewardship”.

We cannot serve two masters!

# Stewardship

Moreover it is required in **stewards**, that a man be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2



For a bishop must be blameless, as the **steward** of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. Titus 1:7-9

# Digging and Begging!

Luke 16:3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship, I cannot **dig**; to beg I am ashamed.

- What other options did he have???
- Ask forgiveness?
- Change his ways?
- Why did he not want to dig or beg??

4626. **skapto**:  
apparently a  
primary verb; to  
dig:--dig. Only used  
in 2 other places:

Luke 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and **digged** deep, and laid the foundation on a rock...

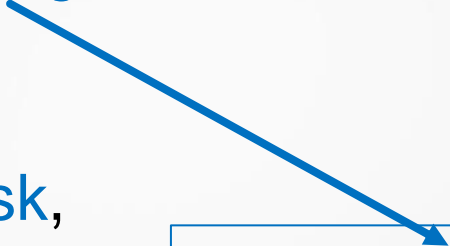
Luke 13:8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall **dig** about it, and dung it:

# Digging and Begging!

Luke 16:3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship, I cannot dig; to **beg** I am ashamed.

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, **Ask**, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you...

Luke 11:10 For every one that **asketh** receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.



1871. **epaiteo**: from 1909 and 154; to ask for:--beg. Only used here, but #154 is used widely, for example:

# Digging and Begging!

**This man had no desire to humble himself, change his way, make amends or seek forgiveness!**

This **could** have been an alternate response after getting 'caught'?

As stewards we will all make mistakes – the key is what we do **AFTER** wasting our master's goods!



# So what did he do instead?

- Probably what he had been doing all along! Wasting his master's goods...
  - How much owest thou unto my lord? v.5
  - Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. v.6
- He was marking down the 'debts'...
- These were debts someone owed to his Master!
- Debt = sins and trespasses → "Forgive us our debts..."
- Do we tell people that their sins before God aren't serious?!
- Ezekiel 13:22; Jeremiah 23:16-17

# So what did he do instead?

- Probably what he had been doing all along! Wasting his master's goods...
- Bill = God's word 1121. **gramma**: from 1125; a writing, i.e. a letter, note, epistle, book, etc.; plural learning:--bill, learning, letter, scripture, writing, written.
- 2Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy **scriptures**, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- Do we 'mark-down' or discount God's Word?

# Reducing God's Word

Howbeit **in vain do they worship me,**  
teaching for doctrines the  
commandments of men.

For **laying aside** the commandment of  
God, ye hold the tradition of men

**Making the word of God of none  
effect through** your tradition, which  
ye have delivered: and many such  
like things do ye. (Mark 7:7, 8, 13)

# Do we 'mark down' God's Word?

2 Corinthians 2:17 For we are not as many, which corrupt [deal deceitfully with] the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.



# The unjust steward “commended”??!!

- Luke 16:8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely...
- ... for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

Any ‘praise’ heaped upon the steward by his master was either ironic, or facetious or both!

Luke 19:21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

22 And he saith unto him, **Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee**, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow... [you will be treated that way!]

# Advice based on the Unjust Steward's actions???!!!

- Luke 16:9 And I say unto you, **Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness**; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into [their] everlasting habitations.
- Jesus is NOT be contradicting himself in verse 13 “Ye cannot serve God and Mammon”!
- Where would the unjust steward and his ‘friends’ end up?
  - In everlasting death!! (Wages of Sin is Death)

# Warning from the Unjust Steward

**Matthew 24:45-51** – ONLY two types of Stewardship:

- Faithful: watching, busy serving OTHERS,...
- Unfaithful: self-serving, abusive, taking advantage of others...

The type of steward you are NOW will determine your 'everlasting habitation' THEN!!

# Lessons from the Unjust Steward

- ✓ Dig deep to lay a foundation on Christ (DIG)
- ✓ Be prepared to get your hands dirty in service to others and so develop the fruit of the spirit (DIG)
- ✓ Repent, confess, and seek forgiveness when you fail (ASK)
- ✓ Realize the seriousness of sin for yourself and others!
- ✓ Use God's Word faithfully, and guard against replacing it with the "traditions of men"!
- ✓ Don't fall into the trap of thinking you can serve God and Mammon!