

The Unjust Steward

TEXT: Luke 16:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. NOTICE, FIRST OF ALL, THE CHARACTERS.
1. The **Steward** – slave or hired servant who oversaw finances.
 2. The **debtors** – The owed the Master money.
 3. The **Master – Not Jesus** or representative of him. It is the Lord of the parable who commends the unjust steward, but he does not restore him. **Jesus commends, but doesn't restore him either.**
- B. STEWARD WAS UNRIGHTEOUS, YET JESUS UPHOLDS HIM AS OUR EXAMPLE(**vs. 9**).
- C. HOW ARE WE EXPECTED TO BE LIKE HIM?

I. HE FACED THE FACTS.

- A. HE DIDN'T MAKE EXCUSES OR JUSTIFY, HE KNEW THE JIG WAS UP(**vs 3**).
- B. **WE MUST FACE THE FACTS, TOO.**
1. Of our own sinfulness(**Rom. 3:23**).
 2. Of judgment(**Acts 17:30-31**).
 3. Of Jesus as our only hope(**Acts 4:12; John 14:6**).

II. HE MADE A DECISION. "I AM RESOLVED."

- A. WHAT DID HE DO? HE LET SOME DEBTORS OFF EASY.
- B. **WE HAVE SOME DECISIONS TO MAKE**, TOO.
1. "Who will follow Jesus?"
 2. Joshua's decision(**Josh. 24:15**).
 3. "Here am I, send me" (**Isa. 6:8**).
- C. TOUGH DECISION(**Matt. 10:34-39; Mark 8:34**).

III. HE ACTED ON HIS DECISION.

- A. CONSIDER **THE IMPORTANCE OF DOING WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED**.
1. **James 1:22-25.**
 2. **Matt. 21:28-31.**
 3. Can we afford to put Jesus off?
 4. What about the Lord's work(**John 9:4; Matt. 9:37-38**).
- B. OUR ACTION WILL BE REWARDED(**Gal. 6:9-10**).

IV. HE DIDN'T LET HIS LIMITATIONS STOP HIM(**vs. 36**).

- A. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY STAND IN OUR WAY?
- B. **WE DO WHAT WE DETERMINE TO BE IMPORTANT**(**Matt. 16:26**).

V. THE LESSON OF THE PARABLE.

- A. **SINNERS ARE SOMETIMES MORE COMMITTED TO THEIR SIN THAN CHRISTIANS ARE TO GOING TO HEAVEN.**
1. Those who claim earthly goals are much more energetic in obtaining those goals than we who are spiritual in obtaining ours. (**Mount Everest – Whitney**).
 2. The steward's prudence is commended. He knew what to do and did it ...

Right then! (**2 Cor. 6:1-2**).

- B. **vs. 9.** HE IS TELLING US TO USE WHAT GOD HAS PLACE IN OUR HANDS IN SUCH A WAY THAT WHEN IT IS TAKEN FROM US, FRIENDS IN HEAVEN

WILL TAKE US IN.

1. Not everyone we do good to will go to heaven.
2. **Jesus is the one to whom all good is ultimately done**(**Matt. 25:34-40**).

VI. FINAL WARNING – HE DOES NOT COMMEND DISHONESTY.

- A. HE IS NOT TELLING US TO BE UNJUST (**vs. 11-12**).
- B. THE STEWARD WAS NOT SERVING THE MASTER, BUT HIS GOODS.
 1. A conflict of interests(**Matt. 6:22-24**).
 2. You can't do the job for God if covet the trust of your stewardship
(**1 Cor. 4:1-2**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. HAVE YOU FACED THE FACTS?
- B. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?
- C. THEN WHY NOT ACT?