

**Luke 16: 1-15; The Parable of the Unjust Steward, Session # 4, “God’s Expectations & Our Money”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, in the Adult Sunday School.**

**Luke 16: 1-15** – “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. 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. 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. I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses. So he called every one of his master’s debtors to him, and said to the first – How much do you owe my master? And he said – A hundred measures of oil. So he said to him – Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty. 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. 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. And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. 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. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own? 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. Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. And He said to them – You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

I want to continue on with our study of this Parable today by our examining together the phrase in verse 9 – And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon.... It will be good for us if we can understand this better, so that as Christians think more about what God is expecting of us as stewards of the money that He has given to us. I think that it will good for us to begin by looking at this subject in terms of words that were spoken to Israel in Old Testament times.

**Deuteronomy 8: 7-18** – “For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end— then you say in your heart – My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth. And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

**1. God Has Expectations of Us in Relation to How We Think about Our Money.**

**Question # 1** – How should we as New Testament, New Covenant Christians think about the words – Your God is bringing you into a good land? How can we apply these words spiritually to ourselves?

**Answer:** We can apply them to ourselves by thinking of how God has providentially ordered each of our personal and family situations in and by His goodness and mercy, He has provided for all of our needs, and brought us into, given us, a place to live and a job to work at, and good food to eat. We should be a very thankful people; thankful to God that He cares for us so well.

**Question # 2** – How should we respond to all of the good things that the Lord has given to us according to verse 10?

**Answer:** When we have eaten and are full, then we should bless the Lord our God for the good land (all of these good things that He has given to us), particularly the way that He has fed us.

**Question # 3** – According to verses 11-17, what are the particular temptations that Israel faced when God was so very good to them, and are we prone to these same temptations? Mention some of them and tell us how we can respond rightly to them.

**Answer:** Forgetting the Lord by not keeping His commandments. Forgetting the Lord by not praising and thanking Him for everything that He has given to you and everything that He has allowed you to accomplish with regard to your job, your house, delivering you from slavery and bondage to sin, and feeding and clothing you in such wonderful ways.

**Question # 4** – According to verse 18 what is the great truth that we should remember in terms of our wealth and God's blessing us in the Covenant of Grace?

**Answer:** We should not forget that it was by His power and the might of His hand that each of us has gotten this wealth that we have. That is He who gives us the power to get wealth, and that He does this so that He might establish His covenant faithfulness to us through His giving us Christ. For it is in His giving us Christ, that He has given us all things for life and godliness. And He has made us rich in spiritual things as well as His haven given us many physical blessings, and all the money and possessions that we have. Our response then ought to be that because God has been so generous with us, we should then be kind and generous to people around us. God will test us in this regard, as it says in verse 16. And so we should think about their needs and how we could be their friend by means of unrighteous mammon.

## **2. Making Friends with our 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.”

**Question # 5** – When Jesus says that we ought to make friends for ourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, what do the words “when you fail” refer to?

**Answer:** This word “fail” refers to the time when we will die. Our soul will be separated from our body, and therefore our stewardship here upon this earth will come to an end. There will be nothing more that we can do to please the Master our Lord Jesus Christ because our body will fail, and we will not be able to do anything more either to be more holy or wise or glorifying to God than we have been up until that time.

**Benjamin Keach says** – “After a short time you must fail, shall die, it is impossible to prevent it; and therefore it was their wisdom to provide against that time. Should a rich man be told of a certain truth that in a very short time he should fail in the world (or as it is called, break) and be turned out of all he hath, sure he would be full of thoughts how he should live in after times; it would put him upon thoughtfulness for the time to come. Why, sirs, I am come this day to tell you every one, young and old, rich and poor, that after a very short time you will all fail, there is no avoiding it; you that are rich, your riches will fail; and you that are strong and in health, your strength and health will fail; and you that think you are wise, your wisdom will fail; and you that are beautiful, your beauty will fail; and you that have the means of grace, the means of grace will fail; and you that have nothing but false hopes of heaven, your hopes will fail, and be like the spider's web; and you that live now, and are brisk and lively, your life will fail. And is it not then your chiefest wisdom to labor for such friends that will not fail, or

get an interest in Christ, and have your accounts to give up with joy, that you may be happy at death, and for ever.”

**1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6: 6-12** – “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out.” “And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.” “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” “But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.” “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

**Question # 6** – Why is godliness with contentment a means of great gain? And What are the reasons given to us here that should we not desire to be rich?

**Answer:** Because it will keep us from covetousness and we will know God Himself to be our portion and our hope in this life and the next.

**Question # 7** – What then should we pursue with the time that we have left in this life according to verses 11 and 12? And what can we do to make sure that we will be welcomed into the eternal dwelling places?

**Answer:** We should pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. We should fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life to which we were also called.