The Unrighteous Steward

Gary Wilemon · Luke 16:1–13

INTRODUCTION

- This parable is considered to be one of, if not the most difficult of the Lord's parable to understand.
- Look for the main purpose, the main meaning of the parable, and try to find that meaning within context.

1 The Context of This Parable

Luke 15:1–2; Luke 16:14

- Perhaps the impetus for this parable goes all the way back to the first part of Luke 15.
- The scribes and the Pharisees are grumbling against the Lord because he is spending time with, even sharing a meal with sinners.
- Verse 14 says, now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at him.
- Even though he is talking to his disciples, it seems somewhat clear that the Pharisees and the scribes were the audience he's really directing these comments to.

2 The Manager Called to Give an Accounting

Luke 16:1–7

- The manager is called to give an accounting of his management.
- Too proud to beg. Not too proud to steal his owner, his master's money, but too proud to beg.
- I will work out a plan to ingratiate myself with those who have a debt to my master.
- Basically, that's what he does. He reduces their bill.

3 The Master Praises His Shrewdness

Luke 16:8

- He doesn't praise his dishonesty. He doesn't praise his thievery. What he praises is his shrewdness.
- The only thing that is being approved of is how clever this guy was.
- It wasn't right, it was definitely wrong, but he did at least accomplish his goal of trying to secure for himself some kind of future.

4 Make Friends by Means of the Wealth of Unrighteousness

Luke 16:9; Matthew 25:31–40

- I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwelling.

- We're not talking about earthly friends. That's not what we're talking about here. They will receive you into the eternal dwelling. We're talking about heavenly friends.
- In worldly matters, worldly people make wise decisions, but in spiritual matters, it seems as though the sons of light don't act nearly as shrewdly as they should in securing their eternal future.
- To the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me.
- They were also making friends in heaven. They were laying up treasure in heaven.
- What you have, use it for the Lord.

5 You Cannot Serve God and Wealth

Luke 16:10–13; Luke 16:14–15

- He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much.
- Use what you have to secure your spiritual future rather than your physical future.
- They saw all that they had as an indicator of how righteous they were.
- The Lord, I believe, in telling this parable, is saying to them, Your focus is in the wrong place.

6 The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19–31

- How many opportunities did this rich man have to make use of the wealth of unrighteousness to help Lazarus?
- He didn't make friends in the heavenly places. And when he died, there was no one to welcome him into those heavenly places.
- The real intent of this is to reinforce what he has just taught in the parable of the unrighteous steward.

THE CHALLENGE

Let's use what God gives us for his glory. Let's use it for his people. Let's use it for his cause. Let's use it in ways that will make friends for us.

MY NOTES