

Parables of Luke (NCC Equip Class January-March 2017)
Session #4: February 5, 2017
“The Parable of the Unjust Steward”
(AKA: “Using Earthly Money to Purchase Eternal Goods”)
Luke 16:1-9

Introduction:

Context:

- 1) This Parable is Addressed to _____ (16:1)
- 2) This Parable Deals with the Issue of _____
- 3) This Parable Deals with the System of _____

Explain the System of Reciprocity:

Explain the character of the main character of this parable:

Summary Statement and Key Application:

Jesus Tells a Story of How a Prudent Employee About to Be Fired Shrewdly Secured a Future for Himself! Likewise, Christians Should Use the Financial Resources That They Possess Now for Future Eternal Blessings.

Key Concept of this Parable: “The Future”

I. Future Threatened (1-3)

Is this parable an allegory? _____ Explain:

Describe the 2 Main Characters:

- 1) The Rich Man -
- 2) The Manager -

What happens to the manager in Luke 16:2?

What responsibility is the manager given before he leaves? (v. 2)

How does getting fired like this threaten this manager's future?

II. Future Secured (4-8a)

Considering the cultural system of reciprocity – how does getting fired create a problem for this manager?

How does the manager plan on using the system of reciprocity to reverse his fortune?

Explain the manager's plan/scheme: (vv. 5-7)

Though clever, are these debt reductions ethical? _____

But what will these debt reductions do for the manager in the future?

What was the master's response to his manager's plot? And explain why?

How did the manager secure his future?

The Manager is Praised for Using the Opportunity that He had Today to Secure His Future!

Explain the Essential Difference Between How:

1) The Lost Think about their Future:

2) Believers Thinks about their Future:

III. Future (Eternal) Investment (8b-9)

A) Explanation (8b)

In what way is Jesus NOT saying to be like this manager?

In what way is Jesus saying TO BE like this manager?

How are unbelievers often more shrewd and more calculated in considering and planning for their future than believers are their future? (Remember, both have different expectations regarding their future.)

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| Christ's question at the end of Luke 16:8 might be summarized like this . . . "Why Aren't God's Children as Savvy about Their Heavenly Future and Eternal Things as the Worldly People are with Their Earthly Future?" |
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B) Application (9)

What is the only way to "take your money with you"?

If you want eternal rewards for the gifts that you give to others, WHEN do you have to give them to other?

Explain what Jesus means when He says, “make friends for yourself by means of” money:

2 Groups Christians Should Give To:

#1 – Soon to Be Heavenly Saints

➤ Explain

Besides Christ, who will greet believers when they arrive in heaven?

Christians We Can Give To:

- 1) Poor Christians
- 2) Pastors and Missionaries
- 3) Persecuted Christians
- 3) Your Church
- 4) Widows in Need
- 5) Families that Adopt
- 6) Hospitality to Other Believers
- 7) Others?

#2 – Lost People – Who Would Be Saints after God Saves Them

Gospel Giving:

- 1) Give to Causes That Reach People for Christ
- 2) Give to Missionaries
- 3) Give for the Purchase of Bibles
- 4) Give to the Church
- 5) Give to Groups or People That Want to Bring the Gospel to Orphans
- 6) Give to the Poor – And Give Them the Gospel
- 7) Give to the Orphan – And Tell Them How They Can Know Christ
- 8) Hospitality to Unbelievers
- 9) Give To Biblical Endeavors That Seek to Advance the Cause of Christ
- 10) Others?

Parable:

“The Parable of the Unjust Steward”

(AKA: “Using Earthly Money to Purchase Eternal Goods”)

Text:

Luke 16:1-9

Context:

- 1) Luke 15 – Christ Indicts the Pharisees and Scribes with 3 Parables
- 2) Luke 16 – Christ Encourages His Disciples with regard to Money and Eternal Investments

Cultural Considerations: The System of Reciprocity

Representations in the Parable: None

- Unlike many of Christ’s parables, this one is not an allegory. The characters in the story are not representative. They “play” themselves. Instead, Jesus draws moral and theological truths from the circumstances found in the parable.

Point of the Parable:

Jesus Tells a Story of How a Prudent Employee About to Be Fired Shrewdly Secured a Future for Himself! Likewise, Christians Should Use the Financial Resources That They Possess Now for Future Eternal Blessings.

Applications:

- 1) Christians Must Use Their Money for Spiritual Purposes Just as Wisely as Unbelievers Do for Material Purposes!
- 2) Believers Should Use Earthly Money to Purchase Eternal Treasures!