

LUKE Lesson 42

Stewardship; (Chapter 16:1-13)

22 March 2019

Luke chapter 16 is a chapter about money. The Lord Jesus lays down some important principles about the proper use of money. If we will learn and heed these principles it will help us to enjoy the abundant life that our Lord wants us to have (John 10:10).

A steward was responsible to take the money given to him by his lord and go to the marketplace and obtain all the things required for his lord's household. If he was able to bargain for a lower price on those goods, he got to keep the money that was saved.

Vs. 1 This steward had been accused of wasting his master's goods.

Vs. 2 The steward was going to lose his stewardship.

3-4 Realizing his situation, he came up with a plan to secure for himself a good reputation in the community as a good steward.

5-7 He called all his master's debtors (customers) and reduced their bill significantly. The discount came out of his own pocket. His master got paid the full price he was expecting, and the steward earned the respect of the other businessmen.

Vs 8 The lord (small "L") commended the steward for his wise actions.

The Steward's commendable traits:

1. He denied self-profit for the profit of the master.

Vs 9 The lesson: this steward denied himself for the benefit of his master. In the same way, in our spiritual lives we ought to be willing to deny ourselves for the benefit of our Master. If we will, our reward will be greater.

The principle: your actions today determine your benefit (or loss) tomorrow.

Selfishness results in loss. Seeking instant gratification will cost you.

Self-denial results in reward in the long term. Spiritually, it will result in more souls won to the Lord as you win the affections of selfish men and women by serving them and ministering to their needs at your own expense. (Mt. 5:40-41, 1 Cor. 6:7, Php 2:3, 1 Jn 4:19)

2. He had plenty of money to spend from his master, but he was thrifty; he didn't waste it. He put his master's interests first.

Just because you have plenty of money doesn't mean you have to spend it foolishly or carelessly. The Lord commends thrift.

Lesson number 2 (vs 10-11)

Your giving reveals your heart; it reveals your love for the Lord. If you have a bad heart, you won't give even if you become rich. The quantity doesn't matter to the Lord. He's looking at your heart (Luke 21:2-4).

This applies to the giving of your time and service also. If you won't do the little things right, you won't do the big things right. How much effort do you give to the little things? That's what God is looking at.

Vs 12 You need to prove yourself faithful under the authority of another man before God will trust you to be in a position of authority. (1 Tim 3:6, 5:22)

Everything we do, small or big, is important. If you are controlled by the Holy Spirit and influenced by the word of God, it will show in the way you serve the Lord and serve others.

Vs 13 Your love for material things (mammon) will destroy your love for God. Your love for God will destroy your love for material things.

MONEY:

The right way: you gain money by work to provide for your household. You gain money by work to provide for God's work.

The wrong way: your household is neglected for pursuit of money. God's work is neglected for pursuit of money.

Little things count!

1Co 15:58 ¶ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.