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**May 3, 2020**

**Luke 16**

As with most verses and the unlimited ability of Jesus to draw not only on physical as well as spiritual meanings in almost everything He says, this parable is no different. This parable will touch the Eternal Spiritual implications of either a worldly or fleshly action.

### **The Parable of the Unrighteous Steward**

**1And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.**

**2And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.**

To be clear, an employee was accused of misusing the owner's property, inventory, debts, whichever case is most fitting.

**3Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.**

This description of a reality of that day that Jesus spoke it and is true today of many people not just the young. Spoiled by position,

birth or relationships that has netted them a comfy job that does not require any real physical labor.

So, the fleshly man would of course seek a way to steal even more in order to put themselves in a better position.

We recently saw a number of congress people who were privileged to the inside information in the Wuhan Corona Virus. They used their positions to sell off stocks that would undoubtedly lose them money if they did not sell. The general public did not have this information, so a great deal of savings was lost by the ordinary person. They all of course say they did nothing it was their spouse that does all of that. We of course would never think that over dinner and casual conversation that a husband and wife would not talk about the newest intel that came to their ears.

Never!

**4I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses. 5So he called every one of his lord's debtors *unto him*, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord? 6And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. 7Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.**

So, the intel of the day that he was to be fired paid off, by him stealing more from his master and converting that theft to good will for himself when he was unemployed.

**8And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.**

For the sake of this parable the master or employer of this devious man commended him for his foresight and additional theft to put himself in a better position.

The Lord is trying to make a point as it is unlikely that any employer would be so gracious to commend a thief for his thievery. The point Jesus is making is that the thief has set his own judgment in the Spiritual realm by his actions in this physical realm. He may have gotten away with it here on earth, but a judgment is coming that will result in his being cast into the lake of fire. In other words, he decided not to repent but to double down and realize his full reward for eternity here in this very small time called life.

Jesus also make the final comment;

***for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.***

This alludes to the idea that the street-smart person is wiser than a benevolent Christian. This term “wiser” in the Greek according to Strong’s Concordance is;

Phonetic Spelling: (fron'-ee-mos)

Definition: practically wise, sensible

Usage: intelligent, prudent, sensible, wise.

All of these terms in the definition are related to the intellect not the heart condition. There seems to be a distinct difference between say; knowing God; heart wise as opposed to understanding all of the various ideals of God. It is very possible to know about or of God without really knowing God. One is based on the heart condition the other is based on intelligence. There is a saying within the Christian Church that says; “The distance between Heaven and hell is about 18 inches”. Meaning the distance between the head and the heart. It reflects on why God says He will reveal Himself to the humble contrite people.

***1 Peter 5:5 [5](#)Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.***

***Psalm 138:6***

***Though the LORD is on high, He attends to the lowly; but the proud He knows from afar.***

***James 4:6***

***But He gives us more grace. This is why it says: "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."***

**Isaiah 57:15**

***For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.***

**Isaiah 66:2**

***For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.***

Another example would be a child. Children for the most part have innocent hearts, they are taught to hate, and covet. But again early in life for the most part they are humble and contrite in their hearts. That is why Jesus said we must be as a child to accept Him.

***Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.***

Now back to the man who had been caught by his master not handling his property in a just way. He then makes an offer to all his masters debtors to forgive parts of their debts in hopes that when he is fired, they will all love him and take care of him.

**9And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.**

It sounds like all of this man's friends were going to be there welcoming him to the fold when he died and is judged. Don't let that fool you, Jesus is not declaring a country club lifestyle for this man and his friends. Quite the contrary, if we take the whole council of God, we know that in the outer darkness where there is gnashing of teeth and a fire that burns forever there is no comradery; it is all out suffering for eternity.

And now Jesus will get into the Spiritual ramifications of earthly endeavors.

**10He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.**

To understand what is important to God we need to study His Word to find that out. Those are the things we need to work on as being Good Students and Good Servants to Jesus the Christ.

**11If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? 12And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? 13No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

This word “mammon” in the Greek according to Strong’s Concordance is;

*Phonetic Spelling: (mam-mo-nas')*

*Definition: riches*

*Usage: (Aramaic), riches, money, possessions, property.*

We are all guilty of some part or perhaps most of our lives serving the desire if not the fulfillment of lots of money, property or wealth. When we put even the desire of that before God, we are serving the other master before the True Master which is God.

***Matthew 19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.***

## **The Law and the Prophets**

**[\(Matthew 11:7-19; Luke 1:5-25; Luke 7:24-35\)](#)**

**14And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. 15And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.**

We are not told what is said by the Pharisees it simply says that they “derided” Him. Strong’s Concordance says that word deride is;

Phonetic Spelling: (ek-mook-ter-id'-zo)

Definition: to hold up the nose in derision of

Usage: I deride, scoff at, mock greatly.

It appears they said some unkind things to Jesus, again we don't know what, but it prompted a response from our Lord Jesus.

His response was tied to John the Baptist as the next verses declare. Jesus points out that it seems more important to them to justify themselves before men than before God. The fact is that we can't justify ourselves today before God, Jesus did that for us. His sacrifice positionally place us as "justified" before God. Not through any work of ours but through the work Jesus did on the Cross, in the Grave and in the Resurrection.

The heart is the revealer of where we are. If we are not walking with Jesus in our hearts, then our bodies will surely not walk with Christ. God knows the hearts of men, and in Genesis we see that God had endured more than He was able. He brought an end to civilization with the flood.

***Genesis 6: [5](#)And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. [6](#)And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. [7](#)And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.***



How do you suppose we have done since then when the thoughts of men were constantly wicked? How does God endure us for even one more day?

Back to verse 15;

**15And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.**

Two perspectives; God's perspective is that those things **we** hold in high esteem are an abomination in the sight of God.

**Q.** What things do mankind hold in high esteem?

Hollywood, Pro Athletes, Politicians, Heads of State, Wealthy people, Elites in every category, Power, Prestige, Beauty, Fitness.

**16The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. 17And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.**

The Law and the Prophets refers to the Law that God had given Moses and the Prophets God had sent since that given Law to encourage and or denounce Israel for its' following or failure to follow the Law. Jesus refers to John as a pivot point between the Old Testament Law and the New Covenant. The Law was not eliminated it was fulfilled by Christ on the Cross. The Law that

God gave Moses was the foundation of what Truth would be established on. The Laws of God were intended to help mankind understand a Holy and Omniscient Creator. If man did not or would not or could not understand how Holy and Powerful the Creator of the Universe is, they man would never understand the need for Grace and the amount of Love God had for mankind. The Law was never to be removed it was only to be fulfilled. Christ fulfilled the Law and set down a New Covenant that man was offered as a free gift. Within the New Covenant were new commandments, none of which defied the foundation of the Law that God established for mankind. With the Law of sacrifice taken care of by Jesus on the Cross, that part of the Law and all associated parts of the Law in the Temple were fulfilled by Jesus.

Under this New Covenant we now need to carefully consider the commandments Jesus gave us to walk in those; in doing so we then walk toward sanctification in this life. Now this is a bit hard to comprehend but we are positionally already “sanctified” in God’s eyes due to Jesus. However, we need to train our minds and bodies to walk in righteousness defying sin and getting closer to being sanctified in our walks.

## Divorce

([Deuteronomy 24:1-5](#); [Matthew 5:31-32](#))

**18Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from *her* husband committeth adultery.**

There are many Christians who have divorced, and I can simply say that from God's perspective it is not good. As a matter of fact surveys have shown an increase within church's having married couples divorce equal to or greater than in general society.

God had established some principals and when we defy those principals, we then suffer the consequences. The first principal when it comes to choosing a mate is "being equally yoked". In other words, Christians are not to marry non-Christians.

The teaching of the Rabbis at this time was very flippant according to extrabiblical documents that tells us that they would condone many reasons for divorce within the Israel. The idea of divorce was established in a legal sense through Moses' writings.

As a side note we do find in the Old Testament where God Himself declared His own divorce from Israel. It was due to centuries of Spiritual Adultery. God had warned Israel through His prophets that He would turn His back on them if they failed to

comply with His Commandments. Their failure as a nation and individually left God no other choice than to divorce them.

**Jeremiah 3:8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.\**

*Quote from; God's Kingdom Ministry blog 2013*

*“God’s marriage to Israel shows us the divine example of patience and forgiveness. Israel was God’s unfaithful wife for many centuries. Her adultery began within weeks of the marriage ceremony at Mount Horeb when she worshipped the golden calf (Exodus 32). It continued during the time of the Judges and culminated in the days of Isaiah and Jeremiah.”*

God through Moses writings says that if there is a cause for divorce which was very broad and only directed at the woman.

***Deuteronomy 24: 1When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. 2And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. 3And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; 4Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.***

The New Testament has verses that pertain to divorce that site as the source the Law. Jesus makes the point God was making when He gave the Law to Moses. It is all about commitment; a commitment that goes beyond just saying the words. God was long suffering with His Bride Israel. God finally reach a breaking point;

**Q.** Who was the victim of adultery in God's marriage to Israel?  
God without a doubt.

***Matthew 5:31*** *It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: 32* ***But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.***

This idea of a man divorcing a woman for whatever reason other than unchaste behavior (adultery) placed her in a precarious predicament; it made what was thrust upon the woman as a sin even though the woman had not done anything wrong.

Jesus was trying to make a point about one thing and that is the ideal of commitment between two people. And if either failed in that relationship forgiveness was always available from the aggrieved party. That was the Spiritual point Jesus was making pointing to God in how long suffering He was toward His Bride

Israel. He forgave her time and time again. It is possible even though very hard for the innocent person to forgive the guilty person of such an egregious offense as adultery. It is all about Love and Forgiveness not only from God but from man and wife as well.

## **The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus**

**[\(John 5:39-47\)](#)**

**[19](#)There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: [20](#)And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, [21](#)And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. [22](#)And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; [23](#)And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. [24](#)And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. [25](#)But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. [26](#)And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. [27](#)Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: [28](#)For I have five brethren; that he may testify**

unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. [29](#)Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. [30](#)And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. [31](#)And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Here are just some of the titles for this place called Hell; Sheol, Hades, Hell, the Place of Torment, the Abyss, the Bottomless Pit, Tartarus, Gehenna, the Lake of Fire and Outer Darkness

Now do any of those titles give the idea of a country club setting?

It is inconceivable that anyone who believes they are a Christian would not believe God and what He declares to be true. However according to Pew Research;

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/11/10/most-americans-believe-in-heaven-and-hell/>