

The Parable of the Unjust Steward (Luke 16:1-13)

This is most likely the most difficult of all of Jesus' parables to understand.

#Problem: Jesus appears to commend unethical practices (not possible)

3) Ch 15 Jesus' focus: the Pharisees & the joy of God in finding what is lost

4) He turns his attention to his disciples: *He also said to the disciples* 16:1

5) So Jesus told them a story about a wealthy man with a crooked steward.

6) The steward: cheating & stealing & was finally found out & fired (1-2)

7) He couldn't dig & wouldn't beg: he came up with a clever scheme (3-4)

8) He began canceling some of the debt of his master's clients (5-7)

9) The master's response is all the more surprising regarding the steward (8)

10) Jesus was not endorsing crooked business practices /fraudulent behavior

11) Point: world can act very shrewdly when to preserve their own interests

12) Jesus says that the children of light need to be as shrewd for eternal gain

#1. Principle: Use your Wealth to Make Eternal Friends (16:9)

8 For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light

#2 Principle: Faithfulness in little means faithfulness in much (16: 10-12)

V.10 faithful in *the* least is faithful in much; unjust in least, unjust in much

Vs 11. faithful in unrighteous mammon, commit to your trust true *riches*?

V 12 not been faithful in another man's, who will give you your own

#2 Principle: Only One Master (16:13)

No servant *can serve two masters*; either he will *hate the one & love the other*, or else he will *be loyal to the one & despise the other*. cannot serve God & mammon.