

# THE UNJUST STEWARD

## Christian Character in Action Series: Lesson 7

8 April 2022

### WHAT IS A STEWARD?

- 1 Cor 4:1-2** Stewards are required to be faithful. Stewards are ministers; they are to serve others.
- Gen 15:1-2** Here we are introduced to Abram's steward, Eliezer of Damascus.
- Gen 43:15-17** Joseph has a man in his employ who is called a "ruler." The ruler takes orders from Joseph and is responsible for the operation and upkeep of Joseph's house and all his goods.
- Gen 44:1-4** The ruler of Joseph's house is also called "the steward of his house." The ruler doesn't make the rules, he carries them out.
- 1 Chron 28:1** King David had men who were "stewards over all the substance and possession of the king."
- 1Tim 3:1-5** To rule your house is to take care of your house. To rule God's house is to take care of God's house. If you're the ruler of God's house, you're not the head, you're the servant.
- To be a steward in God's house, you must be able to manage the people who belong to Him.
  - A steward in God's house must distribute the word of God to His people. Ministers are "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor 4:1).
    - God's word is likened to food, water, light, treasure. (Psa 19:10, Ps 119:105, 1 Pet 2:2, Eph 5:26).
  - God's people need to allow God's minister to spend time in his bible so that he can have something to distribute to them.

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### Luke 16:1-12 THE UNJUST STEWARD

- VS 1** Jesus begins to give an account of a man who was steward to a rich man and was accused of wasting the rich man's goods.
- VS 2** A steward must give account to the one who entrusted him with the stewardship. The steward cannot do whatever he wants to do without answering to the one he works for.
- Vs 3** When things begin to fall apart, this steward considers his stewardship.
- 4-6** This steward realizes that he owes a great debt to the one that made him steward. He knows that he has not fulfilled his expectations.
- Considering his own shortcomings, the steward no longer expects his master's debtors to be **able** to make the full payment.
    - He asks the first debtor to pay only what he is able to pay. He paid fifty percent.
    - The Lord doesn't expect more from us than we are **able** to devote to Him (Mk 14:8).
      - But He expects us to do what we can without delay.
    - We need to consider each person's **individual backgrounds** to determine their ability to learn, grow, stop sinning, and begin serving.

**Vs 7** The second debtor is asked to pay eighty percent of what he owed, based upon his ability to pay.

- Everyone has different job schedules, transportation challenges, family responsibilities, and available time. Therefore, it is not reasonable to expect all church members to do the same amount of church work.
  - It is reasonable however to expect that you could do **something** occasionally. What CAN you do? What are your strengths?

**Vs 8** The Lord teaches us here that we, as Christians can sometimes benefit from the wisdom of lost people.

- Often, we see unsaved people with strong marriages, happy families, and success in business. If you're lacking in any of those things, you can learn from their successes.

**Vs 9** You're going to have to work with unsaved people. Your income (mammon) is most likely going to come from a company that is owned or operated by unsaved people.

- If you're a Christian business owner, you're going to need to hire **skilled** people. You're not going to limit your hiring pool to Christians only. Your business will fail.

**“When you fail, they may receive you...”** This answers verse 4, **“When I am put out of the stewardship...”**

- If you treat others in a friendly manner, it may benefit you one day when **you** fail and need help from those you dealt with in a fair way.
- If you're always harsh, unyielding, and unforgiving towards people, you should not expect them to treat you any better than you treated them.
- Grace and mercy toward others will benefit you more than law and punishment will.

**10-12** If you're not faithful in somebody else's house, why would you be faithful in your own house?

- A young man who has been a lazy freeloader in his parent's home is not going to be any different when he marries and starts his own home.
  - A young lady who never helped mom with the housework or cooking, is not suddenly going to be a wonderful homemaker in her own house.
  - Someone who has never served or helped out in their home church but wants to go to the mission field, is not going to do anything when they get to the mission field.
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