

What does this parable teach us about money and property in this world? What should our attitude towards this world's wealth be? (See 1 Tim. 6:6-21.)

How might our trustworthiness and proper use of worldly things be an indication of our spiritual condition (vv. 10-12)? What is the connection between our faithfulness to God and our use of the wealth we've been given in this life? (See John 3:17, Matt. 25:31-46.)

How do the Pharisees react to Jesus' teaching (v. 14)? What does Jesus say is "detestable" (v. 15)?

The Coming of the Kingdom – The Parable of the Unjust Stewart

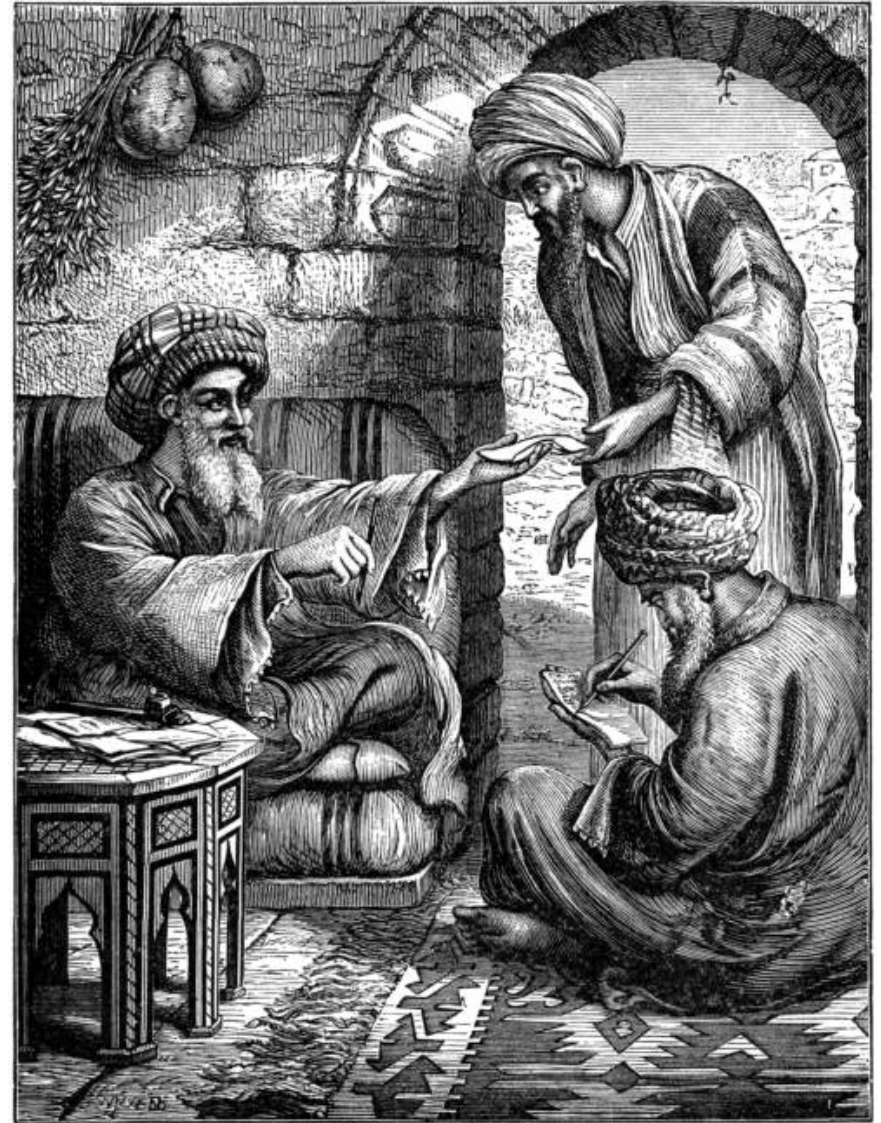


Illustration taken from Mother Stories from the New Testament, 1906

Read Luke 16:1-13

Study Questions:

Place this parable in context. Identify the other parables around it. (You will want to keep them in mind as you interpret this parable.) Identify the audience (see vv. 1, 14.).

What is the job of the steward? Under whose authority does he operate? Why might this be important in our interpretation of the parable?

What is the accusation brought against the steward (v. 1)? Does this behavior sound familiar? (See Luke 15:13 for an example of the same word being used.) In what way are these two parables thematically linked?

Confronted by his imminent dismissal, how does the steward “plan for his future”? What exactly does he do? (See vv. 3-7.)

What is the role of the debtors in this parable? Do you think that the debtors are acting dishonestly by accepting the steward’s offer? Also, how is the master’s status affected by the steward’s actions? (Read Phil. 1:15-18.)

In verse 8a we learn that the master commends “the dishonest steward because he had acted shrewdly.” In what way was the steward “dishonest”? In what way “shrewd”? Why do you think the master would commend such behavior?

In verse 8b Jesus comments on the master’s commendation of the steward. What is it that Jesus is teaching us here? Is Jesus also commending the steward’s behavior? And if so, how, and to what extent? (See Matthew 10:16.)

Verse 9 says that we are to “use worldly wealth to gain friends.” What is Jesus counseling us to do? What is the goal that “the children of light” are to keep in view? (See. 1 Tim. 6:17-19; Matt. 6:19-21.)