

A
FAITHFUL
HEART

LUKE 16

THE PARABLE OF THE UNJUST STEWARD

ENCOURAGING SPIRITUAL PRUDENCE

The Parable (vv. 1-8a)

- (vv. 1-2) – accused of wasting goods.
- (vv. 3-4) – thinking of what to do to provide for his future.
- (vv. 5-7) – his plan, and execution.
- (v. 8a) – the master's commendation of his prudence.

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The Application (vv. 8b-13)

- (v. 8b) – prudence in living for spiritual future.
- (v. 9) – using the physical to lay up spiritual treasure. (cf. 1 Timothy 6:18-19; Mat. 25:34-40)
- (vv. 10-12) – use of the physical shows (un)faithfulness in the spiritual.
- (v. 13) – faithfulness to God requires entire devotion in service to Him.
- About more than money – concerns the relation of everything in our lives to stewardship, and use of it in view of eternity.

THE PHARISEES' HEART OF UNBELIEF

LACKING SPIRITUAL PRUDENCE

God Knows Their Heart (vv. 14-15)

- (v. 14) – loved money. (cf. Matthew 23:14)
- (v. 15) – justified themselves. (cf. Mark 7:9-13)
- Not right with God – Matthew 23:27-28;
Romans 2:28-29

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Fruit of Their Unbelief (vv. 16-18)

- What shows their unbelieving heart further than their poor stewardship of mammon was their poor stewardship of the law.
- (v. 16-17) – rejection of the gospel of the kingdom. (cf. Matthew 23:13; 5:17-18)
- (v. 18) – rejection of God's law on marriage. (cf. Matthew 19:1-9; Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Malachi 2:16)
- They lived for the present world, and twisted God's word for their own temporal gain instead of living and protecting it.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

WARNING AGAINST UNBELIEF

An Illustration of Unbelief and Imprudence (vv. 19-31)

- (vv. 19-23) – two characters of contrast.
- (vv. 24-26) – utter regret and finality of destination.
- (vv. 27-31) – self-exposure of the root of unbelief.
 - (vv. 27-28, 30) – even after, he lacks conviction in God's word.
 - (vv. 29-31) – Abraham's insistence on the sufficiency of God's word which they have.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

WARNING AGAINST UNBELIEF

The Application (vv. 19-31)

- Hope of an “*everlasting home*” (v. 9) is dependent on faithfulness in stewardship, especially concerning the application of the word of God.
- (vv. 9-10) – good stewardship.
- (vv. 19, 25) – he had his “*good things*.”
- Was he a good steward? – (vv. 20-21) – no!
- Should he have known? – (vv. 29, 31) – Yes! He had Moses and the prophets. (cf. Leviticus 19:18; Micah 6:6-8; Isaiah 58:6-7, etc.)

APPLICATIONS

- A faithful heart judges all things by the word of God, and acts accordingly – (vv. 9-10); 1 Cor. 2:15
- A faithful heart places God above all else, and serves Him only – (v. 13)
- A faithful heart does not oppose or abuse God's word in self-service, but investigates it in honesty, and submits in sincere faith – (vv. 14-18)
- A faithful heart, with the focus on eternity and God's will, considers each situation in the light of truth, and bears fruit in its season – (vv. 19, 21, 29, 31)

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