

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What did the rich man demand of the steward when he was told of the steward's wasting his goods?
2. What troubled the steward most?
3. How did the steward solve his problem?
4. What is the spiritual application of the steward's solution?
5. Is it possible that money can be a Master?

SUMMARY:

The rich man, after hearing the unjust steward was wasting his money, demanded an accounting of his stewardship. Recognizing he was about to lose his job and his home, the steward quickly made friends with some of his master's creditors by reducing their debts. He hoped to make friends with them so they would receive him into their homes when he was put out of his stewardship.

Jesus pointed out the necessity of using money or worldly possessions to work for us—a spiritual advantage—by using it to help others while we go through this life, so that when this life is over it may be to our credit in the life to come. He is not saying that money is the key to heaven any more than good works will get one to heaven. He is saying that money can become our master and prevent us from serving our Heavenly Father. This can rob us of a heavenly home after we are out of our earthly habitation.

NOTES:

[SoF:15] We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout "all the world to every creature".

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #5

February 4, 2018

First Quarter

STEWARDSHIP

LESSON TEXT: *Luke 16:1-13*

LESSON SETTING: In the vicinity of Jerusalem

TIME: Approximately 33 A.D.

- I. FAILURE CONDEMNED.** Luke 16:1-3
 - A. Unfaithfulness (vs. 1) Matthew 21:33-43; 2 Peter 3:17
 - B. Accountability (vs. 2) Matthew 12:36; Luke 12:20; 12:48
 - C. Privileges Withdrawn (vs. 2) Matthew 25:28; Revelation 2:5
- II. FORESIGHT COMMENDED.** Luke 16:4-8
 - A. Prudence (vs. 4, 8) Proverbs 14:15; Hosea 14:9
 - B. Foresight (vs. 8) Proverbs 22:3; Luke 12:33
- III. FAITHFULNESS COUNSELED.** Luke 16:9-13
 - A. Using Money Wisely (vs. 9) 1 Timothy 6:17-19
 - B. Eternal Habitations (vs. 9) John 14:2-3; 2 Corinthians 5:1
 - C. Faithful Stewardship (vs. 11-12) **[SoF:15]** Matthew 25:40; Luke 19:17

GOLDEN TEXT: NO 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. Luke 16:13

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 16:19-31

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Psalm 37:1-23; Daniel 5:1-31;
Revelation 21:11 through 22:17

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, the Son of Man

TOPIC: PREPARING FOR ETERNITY

INTRODUCTION:

When Daniel was brought before King Belshazzar to read the writing on the wall, the king said to him, "I have even heard of you, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee." (Daniel 5:14) How much we need this light, the understanding and wisdom of Daniel, to live the life here on earth to prepare for eternal life. We, as Daniel, must receive this spirit of wisdom from our Heavenly Father, that through our faith in Christ, He leads us on to eternity. Poor Belshazzar lacked this spirit of wisdom and was only interested in satisfying his fleshly desires. The end was destruction. How desperately we must cling to the understanding that God has given us. How grateful we should be that He takes time to teach us, to fill us with light and wisdom, and with His own Spirit.

If we do not have God's wisdom, we will be like the rich man's brothers of whom Abraham said, "if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." By reading the Word of God and by searching the scriptures we are given the light, understanding and wisdom that Daniel possessed. We must pray to God to receive the same.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Men cannot avoid responsibility for their actions.

GOLDEN TEXT: *IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONE TO DIE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT.*

Hebrews 9:27

God would have been justified in condemning every sinner who ever lived upon this earth, but because of His great love for man, His own creation, He provided a way of salvation and justification. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Hebrews 9:28)

God still offers time from today until our "appointed time to die" which is unknown to all but Himself, to avail ourselves of His salvation plan, so that our judgment might be His mercy.

"For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:2-3)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 5 – 11

- M. *Preparing for Eternity. Luke 16:19-31
- T. Obtaining True Riches. Matthew 6:19-24
- W. Trusting God for our Needs. Matthew 6:25-34
- T. The Blessings of Heaven. Revelation 21:1-8
- F. The Glories of Heaven. Revelation 21:9-16
- S. The Service of Heaven. Revelation 21:17-27
- S. The Worship of Heaven. Revelation 22:1-17

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