

## The Gospel of Luke

### The Unrighteous Manager

Luke 16:1-14

#### 1. The Parable (Luke 16:1-8)

##### A. An Untrustworthy Manager (vs.1-2)

The rich man is presented with accusations that his manager has been wasting the resources that he has been entrusted to oversee (cf. Luke 15:13). The manager's negligence is not contested and is confirmed by his further unrighteous deeds (vs.4-7).

##### B. An Uncertain Future (v.3)

With his employment terminated, the manager has come to the end of a time of ease, of privilege, and of provision. Being fired for irresponsibility and wastefulness would make it impossible for him to be hired as someone else's manager.

##### C. A Unique Plan (vs.4-7)

He had managed to hold onto his pride (v.3), and unlike the younger son in the previous parable, he resorts to a new scheme to ensure his welfare instead of repentance. He works diligently to ingratiate himself with his master's debtors by instantly removing significant amounts of their outstanding debts.

##### D. An Unexpected Commendation (v.8a)

The manager is not praised for being kind to his master's debtors, for being selfless, or for causing the debtors to praise his master's generosity, but for acting prudently in the midst of the extreme circumstances.

#### 2. The Application (Luke 16:8b-13)

##### A. The Motive with Your Material (vs.8b-9)

The world is full of crafty business practices in order to accumulate more wealth and security. Christians ought to act shrewdly with our earthly possessions for eternal rewards and not bigger barns (Luke 12:18; 1 Tim. 6:10).

##### B. The Irrelevance of Abundance (v.10)

There is no minimum threshold of possessions that must be achieved before your faithfulness to God matters (Luke 19:17; Matt. 25:21, 23).

##### C. The Assessment of Stewardship (vs.11-12)

All of this world is temporary and owned by the Lord (Ps. 39:5; 50:10; Isa. 40:8). If the Christian is unwilling to use the treasures of this world for things of lasting value, then he will not be rewarded with lasting riches (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10).

##### D. The Exclusivity of Service (v.13)

Jesus mercifully states the impossibility of being totally devoted to serving God and totally devoted to amassing personal wealth (Matt. 6:24).

#### 3. A Response from Unbelief (Luke 16:14)

Lovers of money will not take the teaching of Jesus to heart, but will respond mockingly (cf. Luke 23:35; Ps. 35:16).