

God's Calling Requirements Part 48

The parable of the Unjust Steward

"1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. 2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward. 3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. 4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses. 5 So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord? 6 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. 7 Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore. 8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. 9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. 10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. 11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? 13 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 16:1-13 KJV)

In this parable of the unjust steward, we can learn good things about how to manage our material possessions and how to aspire for eternal life.

"1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. 2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward." (Luke 16:1-2 KJV) The steward was working under a rich man who gave him material things to manage.

There will be material things given to us and we are called to manage them in a proper manner. Therefore, we need to be aware of the following facts:

- A. The material things that we received and abused will be the instruments that will be used against us to teach us a lesson.
- B. There will be always a time when we will be called to give an account. God may not allow judgment of sin for a certain time, but sooner or later He will expose the sin that we are doing against His will and expect us to give account.
- C. There will be always a system that God provides to scrutinize our lives style and deal with our shortcomings; a system that can deprive us of our privileges and the amenities.

- D. The sin of the steward was wasting the goods of his master. Wastage and abuse of resources is a sin and God would judge us based on that.
- E. We should know that all of what we have is not ours but God's. He gave them to us to manage them. They are not ours but His. Therefore, wasting resources is wasting what belongs to God. Therefore, when we waste, we are hampering the system of God.
- F. We should know that all what we have is not ours, but the peoples'. God gave them to us in order to pass them to others. Therefore, when we waste, we are depriving others of what is due to them along their rights.

"2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward." (Luke 16:2 KJV) The steward was cornered and faced with his sin. God always does expose sins, not to put people to shame but to give them a chance for repentance. We need to take it positively when God causes a disturbance in our lives and exposes our sin. His purpose is our salvation and not our destruction. Therefore, let us take this opportunity to repent and turn away from our sins and turn to God. Let us also note that when the steward was confronted by the rich man for his sin, he was told: *"For thou mayest be no longer steward."* (Luke 16:2 KJV) So he was given a chance to continue in his office if he chose to repent. The judgment of God will be set forth and it will come true if we don't turn away from our sinful attitude.

"3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed." (Luke 16:3 KJV) The steward, through his thoughts, revealed more sins that he was guilty of in his life. He was lazy and not willing to work hard as he said, *"I cannot dig."* (Luke 16:3 KJV) and he had pride and lacked humility as he said, *"To beg I am ashamed."* (Luke 16:3 KJV) The steward's thoughts showed that he had no repentance and had tactics to cover up his sin further and to rebel.

"4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses." (Luke 16:4 KJV) We need to understand that our thoughts are unspoken words we speak to God. Our thoughts, which the devil cannot decipher and others around us cannot discover, are read and interpreted by God, who is the reader of our thoughts: *"9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."* (Jeremiah 17:9-10 KJV)

Also, we need to know those wrong thoughts will invite temptation that will misdirect us to take certain decisions that will result in sin. The steward resolved to build up the friendship with the people in a wrong, compromising way. Those people, who were in debt to his master, received advice from him on how to escape from paying a portion of their debt by rewriting the document. He did this in order to gain their favor so that they would receive him into their houses when he lost his job. His heart was *'deceitful above all things and desperately wicked'*. That is how some people behave when their sins are exposed.

"5 So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord? 6 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. 7 Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take

thy bill, and write fourscore.” (Luke 16:5-7 KJV) When the unjust steward was informed that he would lose his position if he didn't repent, he manipulated the situation to win the favor of his friends to ensure his job's stability in the future. **But that is unjust and injustice is another sin that we will be responsible for if we use corrupt ways in dealing with the transactions of our lives.** The focus of that unjust steward was worldly gain and he abused the resources that were entrusted under his care to secure his future.

“8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.” (Luke 16:8 KJV) Sarcastically, the Lord commended the unjust steward for his smartness in achieving his ungodly target in a devilish, earthly, and unspiritual way with the wisdom of this world. **The time sin is exposed, it will show the true nature of that person. Either people will repent or become worse. The steward of this parable chose the latter.**

“For the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.” (Luke 16:8 KJV) The children of this world, like the steward, opt for the worldly treasures over the Heavenly eternal treasure. **We may find them wiser and financially sound, and well versed in cheating, lying, and manipulation and are eager to grab opportunities to gain better positions and accumulate treasures of this world. They will have their reward on earth, but in hell, they will receive what is due to them.**

In contrast, we, the children of light, should not follow their ways because our focus is towards Heaven. **We are recommended to use the material that is given to us in a Godly way to promote the ministries of God. We might be laughed at and ridiculed by people because of our unwillingness to comply with the standard of the world, to do evil, and promote corruption, but we need to bear that because our reward is in Heaven.**

“9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.” (Luke 16:9 KJV) Jesus wants us to use the resources given to us in a Godly way and according to the Scriptures, to please God and to do His will to secure eternity with God. We are called to maintain the friendship with Jesus and keep managing our resources as He expects of us. For then, He will reward us abundantly. **“12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” (Revelation 22:12 KJV)**

“10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” (Luke 16:10 KJV) Events in life are quizzes that God uses as a checklist to read our thoughts and view our conduct. He will recompense us accordingly. Whether we are at home, in the office, at the market or somewhere else, we will be tested and watched carefully for how we respond to situations and our faithfulness will be measured based on that and future events will be programmed accordingly. Faithfulness in small things will build God's trust in us, while unjust conduct will deprive us of God's blessings.

“11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?” (Luke 16:11 KJV) Now if we will abuse the resources given to us and direct them only towards our selfish gain, then God will not entrust us with true celestial riches. The **“unrighteous mammon”** is the corruption that is around us. God watches how we respond to the process of corruption. If we go along with the trend of this world, then God will not entrust us with eternal riches and even eternal life.

Material blessings come from God and He gave them to us to use them wisely. He monitors, examines, and scrutinizes how we use them. Material blessings are not ours but God's. He gave them to us to test us and to find out if we are faithful in using them. If we pass the test, then God will reward us with blessings, that are our own and they will be everlasting. But if we fail God and start to abuse our resources to nourish our flesh, selfish ambition, and worldly plans, then God would not bestow on us everlasting blessings. **“12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?” (Luke 16:12 KJV)**

“13 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 KJV) Our material possessions and the way we manage them will determine our next move in life and our final destination. We need to choose God and do properly with what He has entrusted to us for they are His. They are not only for us but for others, even to those of the next generation.

My dear and beloved: In the light of the Word of God that we received in this message start to examine yourself and see if there are unfaithfulness inside you toward the trust that God had given to you and how you are using the material things that God had given to glorify Him and made for yourself treasures in Heaven, or you are involved in the corruption of this world. If you are involved in a sinful and corruptible ways then come to God in repentance renouncing your pride, cheating, stealing, taking advantage, bribing, and renounce your evil manipulation in order to hide your sins and wrongdoings.

Be humble, respond to the teaching and be willing to correct your life and be corrected so God shall have mercy on you and restore you back to serve Him and so your place in Heaven will be kept.

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly your ways and your will. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments that I received in this message.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins and commit yourself to serve Him. Confess and renounce telling lies, deceiving, cheating, stealing, abusing, taking advantage, bribing, your love for money and material things. Confess and renounce your flatteries, compromises, corruption and injustice. Confess and renounce that you are doing your own will and plans and not the will of God and His plan in your life. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your unfaithfulness. Confess and renounce your lack of reading God's Word and life of prayers. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, with friends and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship, wasting your resources, lack of tithing and giving to God, your laziness, your complacency your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to the message that I received today, to be good and faithful servant, grateful to you and start to serve you and be good steward for what you entrusted into my hand. Lord I commit myself to use what you give for you and for others and to do that in accordance to your will. Lord I commit myself to live according to your will and the good plan that you have for me. Lord, I commit myself to be a fruitful and productive person in your Kingdom. Uphold me with your grace and provide for me to continue to serve you.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had repented and committed their lives to live for you and to serve you. Lord I pray that you will give them another opportunity to serve you. Lord I pray for them to be completely changed and transformed so they can be fruitful and effective in what entrusted to them from resources. Lord protect them, provide for them and give them good health and strength to accomplish their ministry and the assignments that you entrusted to them.

Lord I pray for us as a Church of God that we will continue to be faithful to you; serving you wholeheartedly and using all resources fruitfully and making the most of all the opportunities. Lord we commit ourselves to continue to teach your people to be good steward, and direct them according to your Word, will and your plans for them. Lord I pray for more evangelism and more Bible studies to be planted and more workers to be trained. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts so that we continue to serve you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let you hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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