

CAN WE USE WORLDLY WEALTH?

The Parable of the Unjust Steward: Man and Money, [Luke 16:1-13](#)

In this parable and His application of it, the Lord redirects our attitudes and establishes His will for believers concerning wealth.

1. **The unjust steward (v.1-7).**
2. **The worldly are more wise in their material pursuits than God's people are in their spiritual pursuits (v.8).**
3. **The Christian is to use material wealth for good (v.9).**
4. **The Christian is to be faithful in handling possessions: how he handles his possessions will determine what he will be trusted with eternally (v.10-12).**
5. **The Christian cannot serve two masters: he must choose God or riches (v.13).**

1. **[\(Luke 16:1-7\) Parable, Unjust Steward:](#) in the parable itself Jesus said four things about the unjust steward.**

Luke 16:1-7 (NASB)

¹“Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this *manager* was reported to him as squandering his possessions.”

²And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’

³The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg.

⁴I know what I shall do, so that when I am removed from the management people will welcome me into their homes.’

⁵“And he summoned each one of his master’s debtors, and he *began* saying to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’

⁷Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’”

1. The steward was charged with embezzlement, with *wasting the Lord's “goods.”* The steward was in charge of the Lord's property, of all the Lord's goods. Therefore, it was easy for him to use the goods for his own purposes just as he desired. The point is, God has given every man some “goods”: **life, talents, house, property, money, duty, a**

sense of responsibility, conscience, family, and a host of other goods. Every man is charged with embezzlement, with misusing the goods to some degree

Matthew 25:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴“For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.

¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.”

Romans 12:6-8 (NASB)

⁶“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

⁷if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;

⁸or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NASB)

⁷“But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Luke 19:13 (NASB)

¹³“And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, ‘Do business *with this* until I come *back*.’”

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NASB)

²“In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.”

1 Peter 4:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good **stewards** [**oikonomos**] of the manifold grace of God.”

2. The steward was required to prepare a final accounting. Two facts are important in this point.

- a. The Lord hears that the steward has been misusing His “goods.” Note: the Lord had only *heard* about the embezzlement. The full evidence against the steward was not yet fully known. The Lord gave the steward a chance to prove his trust and faithfulness. The accounting did not mean that the steward would be dismissed from the Lord’s estate (heaven, Kingdom of God), only that he must prove his trust and faithfulness.

Luke 16:2 (NASB)

²“And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you **can no longer** be manager.’”

Of course, if the steward had not been faithful in looking after the Lord’s goods, then he would be dismissed: “For you **can no longer** [**ou gar dunē**] be manager or steward.”

- b. The final accounting is at death (**Hebrews 9:27**).

Hebrews 9:27 (NASB)

²⁷“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”

If the steward is found to have been untrustworthy, he will be *dismissed and discharged* from the Lord’s estate (kingdom, heaven, eternal life. See below [Deeper Study # 1—Matthew 19:23-24.](#))

DEEPER STUDY # 1

Matthew 19:23-24 (NASB)

²³“And Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.”

²⁴“Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

[\(Matthew 19:23-24\)](#) **Kingdom of Heaven**: the Kingdom of Heaven evidently means the same thing as the Kingdom of God, eternal life, and salvation. The Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God are interchanged when Jesus says, “**a rich man shall hardly enter into the Kingdom of Heaven**” ([Matthew 19:23](#)) or “**Kingdom of God**” ([Matthew 19:24](#)). “**Eternal life**” ([Matthew 19:26](#)) and “**salvation**” ([Matthew 19:25](#)) belong to the very same concept.

Eternity and salvation, the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven, is the very subject being discussed in [Matthew 19:16-30](#). Having eternal life, being saved, or entering into the Kingdom of God or of Heaven is more difficult for a rich man than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.

The Kingdom of Heaven and of God is revealed in four different stages throughout history.

1. There is the spiritual kingdom that is at hand; it is present right now ([Matthew 4:17](#); [Matthew 12:28](#)).

Matthew 4:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 12:28 (NASB)

²⁸“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

a. The present kingdom refers to God's rule and reign and authority in the lives of believers.

Ephesians 1:18-23 (NASB)

¹⁸“*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

¹⁹*and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might*

²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,
²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Philippians 2:5-11 (NASB)

⁵ “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.
⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Colossians 1:13 (NASB)

¹³ “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”

b. The present kingdom is offered to the world and to men in the person of Jesus Christ.

c. The present kingdom must be received as a little child.

Mark 10:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ “But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, “Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

¹⁵ Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it *at all*.”

d. The present kingdom is experienced only by the new birth.

John 3:3 (NASB)

³ “Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

e. The present kingdom is entered now and must be received now.

Matthew 21:31 (NASB)

³¹ “Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you.”

Mark 10:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ “Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it *at all*.”

f. The present kingdom is a spiritual, life-changing blessing.

Romans 14:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

g. The present kingdom is to be the first thing sought by believers.

Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

³³“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

2. There is the professing kingdom that is also in this present age. It refers to modern day Christianity in every generation. It pictures what the Kingdom of Heaven or professing Christianity is like, and what professing Christianity will be like between Christ’s first coming and His return. This imperfect state is what is called “the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven” (**Matthew 13:1-52**, esp. **Matthew 13:11**).

Matthew 13:24-25 (NASB)

²⁴“Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed [**good men**] in his field.”

²⁵“But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares [**evil men**] among the wheat, and went away.”

3. There is the millennial kingdom that is future. It is the actual rule of Christ or the government of Christ that is to come to this earth for a thousand years.

a. The millennial kingdom is the kingdom predicted by Daniel.

Daniel 2:44 (NASB)

⁴⁴“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”

Daniel 7:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.”

Daniel 7:22 (NASB)

²²“Until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.”

Daniel 7:27 (NASB)

²⁷“Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.”

b. The millennial kingdom is the kingdom promised to David.

2 Samuel 7:12 (NASB)

¹²“When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.”

2 Samuel 7:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”

Psalm 89:3-4 (NASB)

³“I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant,

⁴I will establish your seed forever And build up your throne to all generations.”

Zechariah 12:8 (NASB)

⁸“In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David *will be* like God, like the angel of the LORD before them.”

c. The millennial kingdom is the kingdom pictured by John.

Revelation 20:4-6 (NASB)

⁴“Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

⁵The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

⁶Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”

4. There is the perfect kingdom of the new heaven and earth that is future.

a. The eternal kingdom is the rule and reign of God in a perfect universe for all eternity.

John 14:1-3 (NASB)

¹“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

²In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

³If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.”

1 Corinthians 15:24 (NASB)

²⁴“Then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.”

2 Peter 3:10-13 (NASB)

¹⁰“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

¹¹Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

Revelation 21:1 (NASB)

¹ “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.”

b. The eternal kingdom is the perfect state of being for the believer in the future.

1 Corinthians 15:50 (NASB)

⁵⁰ “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

Revelation 21:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ “And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

⁵ “And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

c. The eternal kingdom is an actual place into which believers are to enter sometime in the future.

Matthew 8:11 (NASB)

¹¹ “I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline *at the table* with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.”

d. The eternal kingdom is a gift of God that will be given in the future.

Luke 12:32 (NASB)

³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.”