



# Dishonest Steward

**"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2).**

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Honesty, faithfulness and foresight are great qualities that God requires of His children. This text highlights these and others.

"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. 14 And the Pharisees also, who were cov-

**"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much..." (Luke 16:10).**

etous, heard all these things: and they derided him. 15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. 16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. 17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail" (Luke 16:1-17).

We derive the following lessons from this text:

- 1) A day of reckoning is coming where all must give account to God (Romans 14:12)
- 2) Through unfaithfulness the steward wasted the master's goods, and made further dishonest dealings on anticipation of his fate.
- 3) The "lord" (note: not The "Lord") commended the foresight of the unjust steward. Note that this is not a justification for dishonesty. Jesus taught about the need for foresight and planning (Luke 14:28-32) but never condones dishonesty (Revelation 21:8).
- 4) Faithfulness in little things qualifies one for faithfulness in much.
- 5) Just like a car cannot drive forwards and backwards at the same time, no one can serve God and Satan at the same time.
- 6) Self justification made the Pharisees react negatively to the message of Jesus, but Jesus pointed out that God knows their heart.
- 7) Personal effort is required to satisfy divine requirements.
- 8) The scriptures cannot be broken. Heaven and earth may pass, but God's word remains for ever.