

Luke 16

Submitted by Lisa Forrester

HIGHLIGHT

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.”

Luke 16:13-15 NIV

EXPLAIN

Jesus had shared the parable about a dishonest steward who was responsible for his master’s property. Upon learning he was about to be fired, the steward cut the debts owed to his master so that the people would treat him favorably when he was in need. Jesus had been previously talking to the multitudes but now he was talking to his disciples. The Pharisees were there too but they were there to try to catch Jesus doing something wrong. Jesus says to his disciples you cannot serve both God and money (meaning only one can be our Master and Lord) before he calls out the Pharisees saying God knows their “hearts”, meaning God knows their intentions.

APPLY

This passage is all about accountability to God for how we steward our resources: finances, time, and talent. The idea of being held to account is not something we like to think about – It means we recognize we are not our own and everything we have belongs to God. We answer to Him, not ourselves, in how we use our finances, our time and our abilities. A trustworthy small group of fellow believers is a terrific place to practice being held accountable.

RESPOND

“It is written: “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’” (Rom 14:11) Lord as we reflect over our resources and truly take an accounting of how we spend our money, our time and our talents, help us to remember there is no condemnation on Christ but Lord we ask that through your Holy Spirit we would come to an awareness and a conviction of where we can better use all the resources you so generously entrust to us. Lord, we proclaim everything we have belongs to you and we submit all we have and are to your Lordship. We are yours Lord! Use us to further your kingdom by investing all we have with eternity in mind– in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.