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Covenant  
Church*

Sunday School Lesson

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## Stewardships of the Christian life (Part 2)

### WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Scripture Lesson: St. Luke 16: 1 – 13

Those of us in constant debt, living above our means, and that have money and are not using it wisely are likely to be serving mammon and not God!

To Dispel the myth that you should pay all your bills (and wants) then what you have left give to God. (Prov. 3:9) (Malachi 1: 6 – 8)

To prove that the money you save will be another's, and the money you use wisely for the poor and to progress the kingdom of God will be yours in eternity.  
(Mt. 19: 21 treasure in Heaven)

Designed to quicken our spiritual man to **Exhort** us to be more active in our Christian duties of stewardship.

Money is a convenience; it is our time, talent, treasure, and influence Condensed.

Use money to work for us and not against us toward the other world. If we do good with "riches" we shall reap the benefits of them in the world to come.

If instead of doing good with our worldly possession, we use them to fuel our luxuries and lusts and deny the poor, we shall certainly perish eternally.

Riches are your time, talent, treasure and influences. Riches are our passions that we love more than we love God, such as pride, prejudices, self-centeredness, covetousness, stubbornness; Ephesians 5: 19 – 21 – the works of the flesh; they that do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

It's a steward's duty to take what we have and turn it into a good account. We must be diligent and industrious to use riches in the service of righteousness and charity in order to promote our future and eternal welfare; as worldly men use them to the greatest temporal profit. (*Ref. Mark 16: 9*)

Are we wasting the Lord's goods for which we are stewards; not handling well what God has entrusted us with in this world? The Lord will judge! (*Ref. Luke 16:2*)

We all will have to put off our stewardship in this world and give account to God of how we have handled His goods. (11Corth. 5:10) The Judgment Seat of Christ.

The Lord did not commend dishonesty, but commends that the unjust steward had done well for himself. The Children of this world understand better how to use this world's goods to seek worldly interest to their advantage, better than the children of light. They work harder to live in this world than we do to live in the world that is to come in eternity. (Ref. *Luke 16: 8*) The wisdom of worldly people and their concerns for this world is to be imitated by us in our concerns for our souls and the world that is to come. They create ways to improve their opportunities. Oh that we were that wise in our spiritual affairs to create ways to improve our "Eternal opportunities." (Rev. 4: 9 – 11 & James 1: 12& Rev. 2:10)

We live as if we are going to be here always, as if there is no other life. We the children of light know that there is another world to come, but we do not always prepare for it; do not always spend our money to best affect the world to come, as we ought to.

Thou we have but little consider how you can do good with little or less "riches". Remember the Widow's mite (St. Mark 12: 41-44)

While in the world manage your money so that we may benefit it hereafter, and not just for these present worldly "cares" only. We are admonished to learn from the world (make friends with them) and use our money so that we may benefit hereafter as the children of this generation make use to benefit "hereafter in this world". As stewards of the Lord's goods, we should use them for God's purposes to benefit the poor and for the kingdom of God purposes.

Don't get me wrong, there is a care of things in this life that are necessary; and there is an excessive care of things in this world that will choke out the word and make us unprofitable servants. The Bible says: and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful in St. Mark 4: 19. (Matt. 6: 25 &30)

The things of this world are the mammon of unrighteousness or false Wealth. Riches often take wings and flies away and are perishable and will disappoint those who put their trust in them. (1 Tim. 6:17) The mammon of unrighteousness is not to be worshiped or trusted for happiness but must be used as an instrument in our pursuit of that which is our happiness; that is Christ. We are admonished to make friends with it and have superiority and control of it and not to be controlled by it or made slaves to it. Those continually in debt because they live above their means, and who use money self-centeredly are slaves to money; whereas the Lord wants money to be in subjection to us as children of light.

1 Timothy 6: 6-10 says, But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. The Bible goes on to say: be content with such things as ye have; (St. Luke 4: 14) and whatever state I am, therewith to be content. (Phil. 4: 11 – 13)

Businesses that are bankrupt (upside down) or operate in the red are considered failed businesses. Children of light that are bankrupt (upside down) or operate in the red because of greed and lusts

are evident of a failed Christian walk. When we are eclipsed by death and must put off this tabernacle and our spirit returns to the God that gave it; we must give account of our stewardship especially how we dealt with our Lord's provision of mammon. We want to be received into everlasting habitation in Heaven as the unjust stewards want to be received into their homes on earth. 1 Timothy 6: 17 – 19

If we do not make the right use of the gifts of God's stewardship and provision in unrighteous mammon (MONEY), how can we expect from him the gifts of Spiritual riches of grace and wisdom, etc.? (Ref. Luke 16: 10 – 12)

Our unfaithfulness in the use of money (God's provision) may cause us to forfeit the added grace and wisdom necessary to finish the race to Glory. Riches of this world are the "less" and the grace and wisdom etc. are the "greater". **For if we are unfaithful in the less riches of money; it is a manifest token that we will be unfaithful in the greater riches of grace and wisdom, etc. For he that serves God and does good with his money will serve God and do good with the greater riches of grace and wisdom etc.** However, he that buries the one talent of this world's wealth will never be entrusted with more talents of spiritual blessings.

HENCE MANY A CHRISTIAN DO NOT EVER IMPROVE THEIR POSITION BEFORE GOD AND THEIR SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS STUNTED, SOME TO THE POINT OF DISQUALIFICATION. (St. Matthew 25: 14 – 30 The buried Talents).

We must seek God first and his righteousness with our "riches" money in particular, and all these things shall be added unto you. (St. Matt. 6: 33) To a man that is faithful in the unrighteousness mammon, he gives the true riches. The riches of this world are another man's, they are from God, from others and we must leave them to others.... But true riches, eternal riches, belong to us they are on our account in heaven and they are eternally ours. (Matt. 6: 19 – 21 & Matt. 19: 21) They are that good thing that shall never be taken away. (Luke 10: 42). How can we expect God to enrich us with greater blessings if we do not serve him with our worldly possessions of which they are not our own, but we are stewards of? "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (St. Matt. 6: 21)

**By giving first ourselves to God.** "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." (2 Corth. 8:5) By giving of ourselves First; we prove that we are servants of God entirely; and all our worldly possessions are to be used by Him. "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (Rom. 6: 18) Honor the Lord with thy substance, And with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, And thy presses shall burst out with new wine." (Prov. 3: 9-10)

If a man will love the world (Mammon) living in debt through poor management, upside down, bankrupt and hold to that, it can only lead to him hating God and despising Him. But on the other hand, if a man loves God and holds to him, he will hate the world. So diverse and far apart are the interest of the two (God or Mammon) that no one can ever serve them both. "No man 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." (St. Matt. 6: 24)

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” (1 John 2: 15-17)

**The rich man and Lazarus:** The parable of the prodigal son tells of the Grace of God (St. Luke 15: 11 – 24) whereas the description of the rich man’s plight tells of the wrath that is to come. (Luke 12: 15 – 21 & St. Luke 16: 19 - 31)

It is useful to awaken us and to warn us against, temptations, worldliness and lust. It’s not a sin to be “rich” but riches can seduce us to prideful indulgence and ease and sinful pleasures, which has leads to the ruin of many a soul. Riches fuel pride and make us look down on the less fortunate. Such arrogance is provoking to God and damning to the soul. (Gen. 18: 20 & Ezek. 16: 49)

“And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12: 16 – 21)

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matt. 6: 19 – 21)

**We are unfaithful stewards of our Lord’s goods if we don’t relieve the poor and make good use of the unrighteous mammon.**

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angles: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” (St. Matt. 25: 41 – 46)

“The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Matt. 19: 20-23)

Let us, the Children of the Light not build a grave yard of God's blessings not sown, but rather some fields of blessings sown; to be reaped when there is a harvest for the world.

## Lesson Review

Those of us in constant debt, living above our means, and that have money and are not using it wisely are actually serving mammon and not God. T or F

We should pay all our bills and wants then what's left give to God. T or F

The money we save is ours and the money we give away no longer belongs to us. T or F

Even though the carnal man does not like to talk about money the spiritual man needs to be quickened to engage more actively in our Christian duty of stewardship T or F

We should use money to work for us and not against us toward the other world. T or F

Instead of doing good with our worldly possessions, we use them to fuel our luxury and lusts and deny the poor; some have perished eternally. T or F

Riches are our time, talents, and treasures, and influence only, and do not include the fruit of the flesh which we put before God. T or F

We should use riches and be industrious as the unjust steward did to in the service of righteousness and charity in order to promote our eternal future. T or F

God uses the way we use money as a standard of who to trust with the true riches. T or F

The Children of this world understand better how to use money for their advantage in this world than the children of light know how to use it for their advantage in the world to come. T or F

If we only have a little we can't be expected to help others. T or F

Money can be trusted to make us happy and secure. T or F

The things of the world are the mammon of unrighteousness and we should not make friends with them. T or F

We are to have control of money and not let it make slaves out of us by living above our means. T or F

The children of light that have a little money are charged to be rich in good works and not to be high-minded, ready to distribute, to lay up in store for a good foundation in heaven. T or F

When we don't make the right use of unrighteous mammon (Money) we can still expect God to give us of his true riches. T or F

Our unfaithfulness in the use of Money may cause us to forfeit the added grace of wisdom needed to finish the race to Glory. T or F

Many Christians have not grown spiritually because they have not used the lesser gifts of God wisely and he has withheld the greater gifts according to his righteousness. T or F

Riches in our possession will soon belong to others but the riches of God are that good thing that shall never be taken away. T or F

Those who are slaves to money should examine their lives and be sure they have fully surrendered to God and sacrificially and quickly began to trust God and lean on his principles. T or F

When we love the world's way we will begin to hate God and when we love God's way we will begin to hate the world's way. T or F

Mammon and God can be served at the same time, because they are not much different. T or F

The parable of the prodigal son is an example of God's grace and the description of the rich man and Lazarus is an example of God's warning to the judgment to come. T or F

It's impossible to lay up treasure in heaven because we can't take it with us. T or F

Our Lord considers how we treat the poor with how we love him. T or F

Witnessing is a stewardship of Truth entrusted to each Born -again Christian and not just to a few. T or F