





**I MUST  
BE  
ABOUT MY  
FATHER'S BUSINESS**

**Biblical success in business**

By  
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## I Must Be About My Father's Business

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All scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

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## PARABLE OF THE UNJUST STEWARD

Luk 16:1 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.

Luk 16:2 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.

Luk 16:3 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.

Luk 16:4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

Luk 16:5 So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

Luk 16:6 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

Luk 16:7 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.

Luk 16:8 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.

Luk 16:9 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.

Luk 16:10 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.

Luk 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

Luk 16:12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?



Luk 16:13 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.

## INTRODUCTION

This book is a testament to the awesome power of the Word of God and the knowledge that it contains for those who care to look. Within the pages of the Bible we find all we need for life:

*2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

Take any situation or need you might have, whether it has to do with family, business, leadership or life in general you will find the answers you are looking for within those wonderful pages.

The seed of the idea for this book was planted when I heard a businessperson say that it was impossible to do business and maintain biblical principles. His standpoint was that it was necessary to remove your “Christian jacket” if you wanted to succeed in the business world. His words reminded me of the parable of the unjust steward in Luke 16 and his illegal and sly dealings to ensure survival.

Using this parable as a starting point, I wanted to examine what the Bible had to say about business and the result is this book. There is very little in the business environment that is not addressed, in one way or another, in the Bible if you care to look deep enough.

## **PART ONE**

The parable of the unjust steward as foundation

# CHAPTER ONE

## A Kingdom Overview of Luke 16:1-13

“There goes Mr. Smith. I wonder how he made all his money”

“God alone knows!”

“Ah, that must be why he always looks so worried.”

Jesus was born into a nation which was largely illiterate and mostly concerned with day to day survival. In order to get His message of a new covenant and access to the Kingdom of Heaven across, He often used stories or parables. A parable is an everyday life situation that is used to explain something else, things that the ordinary people would understand. In Luke 16 Jesus told the story of an unjust steward who ‘wasted’ that which was entrusted to him and how this rogue used far-sightedness to get out of a tight situation. ‘Wasted’ in this sense means to squander, or to separate from ownership, in other words, the steward was not diligent and was lax in doing his job and he lost money in his business dealings. Then Jesus added these words as an explanation of the parable:

**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.**

**If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?**

**(Luke 16:10-12)**

The parable is a warning to all of us to be fruitful and productive with what we have been given, for we are all stewards or managers of the things given to us.

**The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world,  
and they that dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1)**

All belongs to God, the earth, its minerals, its forests and seas, even the inhabitants, each and every single one of us.

**The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S:  
but the earth hath He given to the children of men.  
(Psalm 115:16)**

God has placed His creation in our care, it is for us to use it not abuse it, to look after it and keep it safe for those to come, to be good stewards and managers of it.

**And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Gen. 1:28)**

**And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. (Gen. 1:31)**

God has given us the earth to be fruitful and to multiply in it. With these words, God is saying that He trusts us with His creation and He has given it to us in good condition, much like an office or warehouse for hire. Before handing it over to its new occupants, the owner ensures that all is well, that it is in good condition and he expects, at the termination of the lease, to receive it back in the same condition with increased value and having profited in the interim from it.

With the parable of the unjust steward in Luke 16, Jesus is telling us that there will come a time of reckoning, a time to lay out all that you have done, a time when you will be asked to bring your books so that they may be checked. A time to

answer the question - have you been productive or have you wasted that which God has given you?

**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)**

There is also the danger that the thing created becomes the most important at the expense of the Creator. When it comes to Kingdom values we have to keep our priorities right. In another parable, using the jewellery business as a metaphor, Jesus emphasised the value of the Kingdom compared to the riches of the earth.

**Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:  
Who, when he had found one pearl of great price,  
went and sold all that he had, and bought it.  
(Matt.13:45-46)**

In God's plan for the human race, we are to prosper within His kingdom, but we have to keep the important things foremost in our dealings. How we conduct our business here on earth, (which is a little thing compared to that awaiting us), will determine whether we can be trusted with the greater things He has in store.

## CHAPTER TWO

### A Business Overview of Luke 16:1-13

“Get my broker on the phone, Miss Smith!”

“Yes sir, stock- or pawn- ?”

The rich man referred to in the parable, is the one to whom everything belongs. He is the financier – the one who supplied the money and the opportunity for his servant, referred to as the steward, to handle his business affairs – heard a rumor that his steward was wasting what had been entrusted to him and the rich man called for a review of the books.

Remember, in the time of Jesus, a large proportion of business was done by bartering, for example, fish could be traded for wheat, or olive oil for grapes, and so on.

The task of doing business and seeing to the financial wellbeing of the rich man’s household fell to the steward and he, knowing what he had done or not done, knew his job hang in the balance. He also realised that there was no way he would be able to do menial or hard labour such as digging ditches, and on top of that, living the good life had made him too proud to beg, so his future looked bleak. All he knew was business and administration and with the word ‘discharged for dishonesty or laziness’ on his testimonial, he had no chance of other employment in those fields. What was he to do about his situation? First and foremost, he needed friends, and these needed to be in the right places. Therefore, he needed to strengthen and expand his contacts in the business world, and the best way to do that in the business environment is to make deals that benefit his would-be friends, deals that would be financially beneficial to those whose help he might need.

Money talks in the secular world and people listen especially if there is a quick profit to be made. I can imagine how happy those debtors must have been when the steward told them to re-write their accounts. These accounts were usually promissory notes describing the nature of the transaction and the amount to be paid on or before a given date. Written in the debtors own handwriting, with his seal or mark confirming the transaction, these notes would serve as an account of outstanding debt, and were binding in a court of law. Failure to honour the debt could cost one all he had and even land him in prison, which two thousand years ago was not a pleasant experience and if that were not enough, there was a good chance that the debtor, his wife and children could be sold into slavery. (Matt. 18:23-35)

The steward, in his shrewdness, had the debtors rewrite their notes for a lesser amount, and then by destroying the original account, the new note became valid. Yes, the rich man lost money but the steward gained new and probably powerful contacts at no expense to himself; dishonest, yes, but highly advantageous. In this way the steward literally bought new friends, and opened doors for the day when he would be without work.

The financier was rich and he would be able to cover the loss, but he, obviously an astute businessman himself, did appreciate the shrewdness of the steward.

It is unfortunate, but a large portion of society sees success as described in a Spanish proverb: 'A rich man is either a scoundrel or the heir of a scoundrel.' But this need not apply to the Christian businessperson.

In this parable, Luke 16:1-13, Jesus acknowledges that the world, in its dealings, is shrewder than the average believer. Our faith and moral ethics tend to silence our lips in the face of ruthless competition. We are afraid we will compromise our beliefs or portray ourselves as hypocrites.



All, however, is not lost. Our faith and beliefs need not be concealed in our efforts to gain a foothold in the business world.

Jesus' advice is not to do as the world does, but to make friends with unrighteous mammon that we may always have a place to do business. Jesus did not say, 'accept the ways of the unrighteous'. There are other biblical guidelines for making your way through this world without resorting to dishonesty and underhanded tactics.

**For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.**  
**(1Cor. 9:19-23)**

Paul says, that in whatever he did, he stayed within the boundaries as laid out in the Bible even though he had to deal with the world in all its diversity. His advice was:

**See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,**  
**(Eph. 5:15)**

Paul is telling us, that as Christians we can deal with the world without becoming part of the world, and without succumbing to the vices of the world. Through wisdom we

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