



## *Correspondent's Corner*

### **A Steward, a Servant And a Beggar**

**November, 2023**

Last month we were looking at a three part parable concerning a lost sheep and a lost coin and a lost son. All three of these lost ones were recovered in the Lord's telling this

story. The next chapter of Luke is chapter 16. In this chapter we are told of the Pharisees and their reaction to what the Lord said about three more people. In verse 14 we read that the Pharisees derided Jesus because they were covetous and were upset about what the Lord said.

In Luke 16:1-13 the Lord speaks to the people about the priority of preparing for the future. He spoke of a certain rich man which had a steward that had been wasting the things of his master. It was likely another of the workers who told the rich man about the steward's wastefulness. The rich man then spoke with the steward and told him to bring his records and then he would be terminated from his Job. So as the story goes the steward quickly did what he could to speak with any of his Lord's servants who owed things to him. After the steward had been successful to get some of his Lord's debtors to pay at least part of what they owed he gave the records of his Stewardship to the rich man.

We read that the rich man commended the steward for what he had done in seeking to do what he could to prepare for losing his job. The rich man let his steward go from his job and at least the steward could tell that he tried to do his best. Then Jesus said that if a man will be faithful in the little things he will be faithful in the larger things. Also he said that if a man is unfaithful in the smaller things he will be unfaithful in the larger things and if people can't trust a person for little things done then they will not commit to that person larger responsibilities.

Next In verses 14-18 the Lord Jesus spoke to the Jewish religious leaders who we read that they derided Jesus. Jesus said that they were willing to make themselves look good in the sight of men but in the sight of God they were not true men but hid their wrong deeds thinking they could get away from God. The Pharisees were always a problem for the Lord but the Lord wasn't afraid to tell them their true standing was not what men saw but what God saw. Jesus reminded the Pharisees that the law of God could not be altered. The point of the Lord was that the law could not fail. So the Steward was putting his priorities toward something that would help him to find another job and the Pharisees needed to be concerned about the things that were important to God and not what men saw and the rest of the chapter is

dealing with two men. One man prepared for things on earth only and the other prepared for eternity, as we shall see briefly. John 3:36 “He that believes on the Son has everlasting life, and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him”

From verse 19-31 we read of two men, a certain rich man and a beggar named Lazarus. The rich man only bothered himself about this life but the beggar was prepared for eternity. The rich man fared sumptuously every day. Lazarus ate whatever he could scrounge from the ground or anywhere he could possibly find food. There came a day that the rich man died and was in torments because he was not prepared for eternity. The beggar named Lazarus died also but he was prepared for eternity and was in a place of rest but the rich man suffered terribly. These two men are a warning to us that if we only live for the here and now we will not see heaven but if we seek first the kingdom of God and trust what the Lord Jesus has done for us we will be with him forever in heaven.

Romans 6:23 : “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”.

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

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