

Studies in the Life of Christ

NT Survey Lesson 33--Luke 16

Introduction: In this chapter Jesus continues His teaching on the principles of discipleship. The parable of the unrighteous steward emphasizes the need for wise forethought in the use of what God has given us. This is followed by a stinging rebuke of the Pharisees who, being lovers of money, scoffed at the idea that money should be given to others to gain the favor of God. Finally, the consequences of a lack of love are driven home with the story of the rich man and Lazarus.

Lesson aim: To encourage the proper use of the material blessings God has given us.

The parable of the unrighteous steward--Luke 16:1-13

1. How did the steward of this parable handle his master's business?
2. Upon hearing of it, what did the master tell him to do?
3. What did the steward do to the master's creditors as he closed out his books?
4. Why did he do this?
5. What is Jesus' reason for telling this parable?
6. What is the "mammon of unrighteousness"? What does Jesus say one should do with it?
7. What are the "true riches"?
8. Upon what basis does God distribute these to His servants?
9. What warning did Jesus give about service to God and mammon?

Jesus' rebuke of the Pharisees--Luke 16:14-18

1. How did the Pharisees react to Jesus' teaching on the proper use of material things? Why did they react this way?

2. Do you think that the Pharisees pointed to their wealth as an indication of God's approval and thus were exalted by men? What did Jesus say about this?
3. What connection did Jesus suggest between one's obedience to the Law and one's entrance into the kingdom? Did the Pharisees think they could enter the kingdom without the righteousness that the Law had taught?
4. In what area had the Pharisees particularly set aside the law of God? With what did Jesus charge the Pharisees who frequently divorced and remarried but justified it by the Law?

The story of the rich man and Lazarus--Luke 16:19-31

1. Describe the state of the rich man.
2. Describe the state of Lazarus.
3. How did the rich man treat Lazarus?
4. What happened to each of these men after death?
5. Why was the rich man lost? Why was Lazarus saved?
6. Describe the state of the lost after death. Is this hell?
7. Describe the state of the saved after death. Is this heaven?
8. What did the rich man want to do for his brothers on earth?
9. How did Abraham respond to his request?