

Unjust Steward

The unjust steward is a parable given by Yahshua to His disciples about the management of possessions. These assets can refer to either material goods or spiritual gifts. Either one is a gift from our Creator. Through ignorance we often attribute the accumulation of these possessions to our own doing, yet in retrospect all things come from Yah. As we start our reading please consider the speakers context, its Yahshua talking about physical stuff in relationship to spiritual gifts?

*The character we are examining is the **unjust steward** in the book of Luke chapter 16 verse 8. Let's start with the definition of "unjust" to identify the personality of this servant.*

Unjust #93. *adikia, ad-ee-kee'-ah; from #94 legal injustice, to act immorally, wrongfulness, iniquity, unrighteousness, wrong. In law, unjust enrichment is where one person is enriched at the expense of another and an obligation to make restitution arises. A common example is; when a party contracts for service, but the contractor defaults on his obligation terminating prematurely, and the party unjustly receives no compensation for payment rendered. As in our contract with Yah at baptism, we are given riches; His Holy Spirit living within us to perform a service, yet often we are seen declining on our commitment to serve in carrying out our calling.*

Steward #3623. *oikonomos, oy-kon-om'-os; a house-distributor, manager, or overseer, an employee in that capacity; a financial agent, treasurer; figuratively a preacher of the Gospel, chamberlain, governor. One employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns (law of the house, lawyer of the dwelling). Example would be; a steward on a luxury liner managing the passengers cabins and a shop steward in charge of the company operation. In general a steward refers to ones responsibility to take care of something belonging to someone else.*

Luke 16:1~8 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**. 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. 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. I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, **they may receive me** into their houses. So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord? And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. 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. 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.

The parable seems simple enough when looking at it from a physical perspective. There is a rich man, the boss, who has a steward, an employee who is accused of wasting the boss's stuff. This could be giving away what was not paid for, the act of stealing. The boss questions the employee and subsequently gives the person notice to leave. Better than being fired on the spot, nice boss! The employee, once again thinking outside the box uses his deformed reasoning, comes up with a plan. All those that owe the boss payment, I'll fix their bill to gain favor in their eyes when I'm fired. The boss finds out what happened and says; this is one shrewd person, far more worldly than my other honest employee's.
Continuing in verse 9.

Luke 16:9~12 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. 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?

The boss tells the shrewd steward; you were wise to make friends with the unrighteous in the world, with who you gave away my belongings to, now after screwing up you can hang with them. The boss goes on to inform this unrighteous steward, since he was unjust in little things, no one in their right mind is going to give him anything important to manage.

Don't be fooled in thinking that Yahshua is talking to His disciples about material wealth or items. A parable is a story using physical attributes to describe a spiritual perspective. If you can't understand the physical story you won't understand the spiritual significance. Let's read this over using His spiritual guidance.

Luke 16: 1~4 And he (Yahshua) said also unto his disciples, There was a certain **rich man** (referring to Himself, Yahshua), which had a **steward** (us His servant, the called out ones); and the same was accused unto him that he had **wasted his goods** (unfaithful with the talents given...His Holy Spirit at work through you). And he called him, and said unto him; How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship (judge yourself, examine your walk, are you using the gifts of His Spirit give you?); for thou mayest be no longer steward (because of your lack of faith; the action of your belief, no longer are you to be called; my chosen). Then the steward said **within himself**, (self reasoning, unchecked by truth, the cause of the problem); What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship (I am cast out, striped of His Spirit): I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. I am resolved what to do (got's me an idea), that, **when I am put out** of the stewardship (fallen from the Lord's favor), that **they** (the world in which I have corruption myself with) may receive me into their houses.

Yahshua is using physical attributes to describe the misuse of the talents given. His Spiritual gifts are given to do the work of the called, those that are chosen to be faithful, to produce fruit. This steward is found fruitless but also is found giving away the riches of His Masters, and that being; righteousness which comes by the law. To declare righteousness apart from the law is unlawful...it's called religious hypocrisy. This unjust steward is told to befriend your fellow sinner for you will shortly find yourself in their company.

Luke 16:5~7 So he (the faithless servant) called every one of his lord's **debtors** unto him (sinners in the world, outside of Yah's favor, indebted for sin, un-repented), and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord? (How many sins are you holding which you have not repented of?) And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. (Don't worry, I'm His messenger, we're tight. God doesn't require for us to repent of **all** or sin's, chill out and go with the flow). 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. (As I told your friend, the laws are optional; you don't have to follow **all** that He says... for surly you won't die; said the serpent Gen 3:4).

The steward, a messenger of Yah's word, has betrayed His master's trust and has wasted Yah's gifts. Instead of showing forth truth according to His word, he is found advocating what he and others want to hear. Preaching; smooth talk, health and wealth; just believe there's no need to repent, that's old school teaching, we are New Testament believers, not responsible for our actions...for we have grace!!!!

Luke 16:8~9 And the lord commended the **unjust steward** (the unrighteous servant), **because he had done wisely** (dealt shrewdly): for the children of **this world** are **in their generation** wiser (more shrewd) than the **children of light**. (Yahshua applauds this shrewd, clever, manipulative person in twisting the words of truth in order to fool self and others in believing the lie. For even Satan masqueraded as an

angel of light). And I say unto you (*unprofitable, unrighteous servants*), **Make** to yourselves friends of the **mammon of unrighteousness**; (*worldly possessions*) that, **when ye fail** they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

*Note the message He gives to **the unjust steward**, who **misuses** that which is given to him. Who teaches a lie, claiming; stuff, physical possessions are more important than obedience to the truth of our Creator. Go back to your former life, of the **mammon of unrighteousness** ...making friends of the world who mismanage righteousness. For when you leave the service of Yah, you only have self and the world to appeal for help.*

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is **least** (*physical possessions*) is faithful also in **much** (*spiritual possessions*): and he that is **unjust** in the **least** (*uncaring, disrespectful, irresponsible with physical possessions*) is **unjust** also in **much** (*heartless, callous, ungrateful in handling spiritual possessions*).

Yahshua is telling us a very simple fact about the principle of stewardship. If I'm unwilling to take care of the least important thing, being; physical possessions, that have been given to me to manage and care for, how much more the spiritual gifts? If I handle stuff, physical possessions which fade away, the reward of labor, whether yours or someone else's with no respect, why would you think if given spiritual gifts, you would handle them any differently? Why would anyone who shows no respect to their own possessions, treat your valuables any different when not in your presence?

Spiritual gifts are the most valuable riches Yah endows on us, apart from His Son's blood, shed for your salvation. Spiritual gifts are the essence of the Father's Spirit living in you. Yet physical possessions are fleeting, most break or rot with time. Those things that are made of harder materials may last longer, far outliving us, but to what purpose? We can't enjoy them once in the grave, awaiting our resurrection. No, the only thing that you can take into the kingdom is your faith and the relationship you have with the Father and His son.

Luke 16:11~13 If therefore ye have **not been** faithful in the **unrighteous mammon** (*physical possessions*), who will commit to your trust the **true riches** (*spiritual possessions*)? And if ye have **not been** faithful in that which is another man's (*Yah's Holy Spirit, His spiritual blessings of His essence living in you*), who shall give you that which is your own (*the promise of eternal life, to become as God*)? **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.

*The two masters are; God and money, as known as stuff. Notice what is being said about them; "for either he will **hate** the one, and **love** the other; or else he will **hold** to the one, and **despise** the other." Two contrasts are being made hear about the two masters, God and money, stated; **No servant can serve two masters... you cannot serve God and mammon.***

*Let's examine the first one; "he will **hate** the one, and **love** the other." This would be referring to hating the desire for money, stuff and loving God. The second one is just the opposite; "**or else he will hold** to the one, and **despise** the other." The second reference is to hold in high regard the money while despising God. It is our choice; we can't serve Yah and money at the same time.*

*Yahshua is pointing to a **test of stewardship**; a test by actions. Actions demonstrate our regard for the possessions that are given for our stewardship. How we handle our own property and the use of it. Money is just a tool to be used, the system in which to barter for stuff, in payment for our service rendered.*

It's not the only thing we are being judged on. We are being judged on all things given, as in the use of time, the use of knowledge and understanding, etc. All that has been given is to be used appropriately, not to be squandered, wasted or hoarded.

*If we don't demonstrate God's principles in the way we manage unrighteous possessions...**stuff**, time, knowledge, wealth, health and alike, why would we expect God to place righteous possessions in our control? Stewardship is not found in the way that we handle spiritual matters...**it is found in the way that we handle worldly possessions.** Judgment starts in the house of Yah, first physical and then spiritual.*

Unfaithful management of the worldly possessions that God puts in our hands only demonstrates to Him and others around us that we cannot be trusted with greater responsibilities, the execution of His Holy Spirit. The purpose behind physical possessions is not in the accumulation or in self-indulgence, but in its handling, its usage. If we are not faithful in the little things...how will we be faithful in the big things?

*The point is also seen, that it's not the denouncing of having possessions, but rather the godly management of these possessions. It's **in being a just steward.** Possessions are not evil, neither is money. They are merely the means by which we demonstrate our faithfulness to God's glory, how we handle His blessings.*

*Are we carefree with the gifts He has given us? Do we take it for granted or covet it? Do we forget who we really are and think that we had gained this by our own doing, so it's ours to do as we like? Do we handle it as if it was **His, Our Lords stuff**, and we the stewards? Are we using it as He would like, giving it to support **His agenda.** And if that's not eye opening enough, do we use it as though He's watching us, pleased with our actions, or do we think He's not looking? Truly this physical stuff is the stepping stone to the most important thing that counts, the development of our faith; the action of our belief. This faith is gained through usage; it's the only thing that can transcend into the world to come, His kingdom.*

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the **friendship of the world is enmity with God?** whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

*We are the ones who determine the ultimate **use of the power** that money brings, time that is given, knowledge that is granted and talents provided. Our faithfulness is measured by how we perform through, **our actions.** How we manage what we have been given reveals our obedience to, trust in, faith shown, and love expended to others in the glory of Our Father. We must make everything count!*

Luke 16:14~17 And the Pharisees also, **who were covetous** (of money and stuff), heard all these things: and they derided him. And he said unto them, Ye are they which **justify yourselves before men**; but **God knoweth your hearts**: for that which is highly esteemed among men (stuff and self esteem) is **abomination** (despicable, sin) in the sight of God. The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man **presseth into it.** And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

*Note the law and the prophets are stationary points that all are judged by; they do not move or change. It would be easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than one littlest part of the law to fail, end, and be done away with. Yet man, such as the Pharisees are always trying to alter the requirements of righteousness and are gambling with the world and its ways. As stated in James 4:4 they are called adulterers and adulteresses, those not faithful to Yah and His ways, the law. They are trying to, as it says; **press into the kingdom** without the full requirement. As stated in Matthew 22:1~14, to attend the wedding supper, you must be wearing white wedding garments of righteousness, which is only afforded by the law. They are trying to walk the fence, taking from both sides, and forming a new path to walk on. A*

path walked by those that call themselves Christ like, yet reflect all the adulterous practices of the world...the path of deception.

*Once again He brings us to the point of **self examination**. For those of us that have ears to hear and eyes to see, we must judge ourselves... before we are judged. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 1 Corinthians 11:31*

Luke 16:18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

*Did you notice this line that finishes Yahshua's statement to His disciples? Why is it here, it's so out of place... or is it. Perchance it's us that are out of place in our thinking. Why is He talking about wives and marriage and those that commit adultery? Because that is just what the **unjust steward** is doing. This steward, including those that have dedicated self in marriage to His master would be committing adultery if found frolicking, frisking around, carelessly playing the harlot with the world. Yahshua states; whoever puts away his wife; that would be the husband, putting away his wife in which he is in covenant of marriage with, and leaves to marry another; that would be a woman outside of the covenant...in the world, commits adultery.*

*Why is this so important, because that person, the husband of the wife joined in covenant which Yahshua is referring to is; **Himself**. If He the husband, divorces His wife in whom He is in covenant with and marries another from outside this covenant, He is committing adultery. Plainly put, Yahshua has married the nation of Israel and those grafted in, have made a covenant with them according to all the laws set down through Moses. If Yahshua now forgoes His laws, the covenant, and marries outside of that agreement, according to his own law, He has sinned. We the Gentiles are grafted into the covenant as we accept and comply according to the laws as stated in Romans chapter 11.*

*Again, if Yahshua divorces His first wife meaning, the Israelites which includes; Gentiles grafted in according to the law, and marries another sect or group of people outside the covenant, apart from His laws set down through Moses, the contract between God and man, He commits adultery. It was through that contract, the covenant made with man on the mountain that stated; you will be my people and I will be your God. There is no other covenant mentioned in the bible **stipulating ownership**. There is a covenant of circumcision referring to faith, and there is a New Testament, sometimes translated covenant for the remission of sins, Matthew 26:2. But only one declares joint possession with each other in marriage according to the covenant, the contract stated in the laws of Yah.*

Condoned adultery is the erroneous belief that is preached today. That Yahshua upon His death forgoes His covenant with the nation of Israel and now is married to a new sect, known as Christianity, apart from the covenant set down through Moses between God and man. This is a blatant error.

Also stated by Yahshua in Luke 16:18 is; "Whosoever marries her that is put away from her husband commits adultery". There is only one way that is lawful according to Yah's laws to put away a wife and that is if she is found unfaithful.

Matthew 5:31~33 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the **cause of fornication**, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

The only lawful means by which to divorce, is to find unfaithfulness in your mate, whether wife or husband. Fornication #4202. porneia, por-ni'-ah; harlotry, including adultery and incest, figuratively idolatry, to act the harlot, literally indulge in unlawful lust (of either sex), practicing idolatry.

*So if one, outside of the covenant, joins himself to this unfaithful woman that has been put out, divorced for unfaithfulness to the marriage covenant (the law) with her mate Yah, he also commits adultery. There it is. If Yashua takes a wife from without the covenant, He breaks the law and is an adulterer. If we join to any that are outside of the covenant, outside the laws of Yah in the world, we commit adultery. The message is clear, for those that have ears to hear; **the stewards of His Holy Spirit.***

Luke 19:11~27 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman (*referring to Himself, Yahshua*) went into a far country to receive for himself **a kingdom**, (*came down from heaven to earth*) and to return. And he called his ten **servants** (*His stewards the Jews*), and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come (*live and prosper until I return*). But his citizens **hated him**, and sent a message after him, saying, **We will not have this man to reign over us.** And it came to pass, that when he was returned, **having received the kingdom**, then he commanded these **servants** to be called unto him, to whom he had given the **money** (*physical possessions & spiritual talents*), that he might know how much every man had gained by trading (*putting to use, your actions*). Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a **very little** (*physical possessions & talents*), have thou **authority** over ten **cities** (*kings & priest in His kingdom*). And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five **cities**. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin (*did not use*): For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. And he saith unto him, **Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee** (*by your own action you will be judged*), thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. For I say unto you, That unto every one which **hath** (*use through action+*) shall be given; and from him that **hath not** (*lack of action -0*), even that he hath shall be taken away from him. But those **mine enemies**, which would not that I should **reign over them**, bring hither, and slay them before me.

The message from Yahshua to His disciples; His stewards, those called to serve in the Masters house, for righteous usage, in service with the given assets of earthly possessions and Spiritual gifts.

*The measure of a man is not the number of his servants,
But the number of people he serves*

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