

# LUKE 16:1-15

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Although this parable was for the benefit of the disciples, among the audience were the Pharisees – the 'lovers of money' – and Jesus knew that. The story is simple but with an unusual cast. In most of Jesus' parables, the main character is a representative of God, Christ, or another positive character. In this parable, the steward and the rich man whose possessions he manages are both wicked unsavoury characters.

Jesus doesn't want his disciples or us to emulate the behaviour of these characters. Jesus is not saying we should gain wealth unrighteously and then be generous with it. Wealth is not inherently evil; however, it's the love of money which can lead to all sorts of sin. If we understand everything we own is a gift from God, we then realise that God is the owner of everything and we are His stewards. As such we are to use the Master's resources to further His goals – we are to be generous with our wealth, even if we don't have a lot. Remember, wealth also refers to our faith and gifts from God, to use for the benefit of others.



## 01 — Unusual parables

This isn't a parable that's often studied in church. Did you recognise it? Have you ever studied it before? Was there anything in the parable you didn't understand?



## 02 — Wealth and riches

'Love of money' is one of the dangers that Jesus warns about in this parable. How have you seen the desire for money change our world, the lives of those around you, or perhaps even yourself?



## 03 — Who else are we serving?

Mark listed a number of different 'masters' people could end up serving. Have you ever fallen into the trap of serving another master? How do we keep our eyes on the true master?



## 04 — Practising what (Mark) preaches

What gifts are you 'spending' for God? What gifts are you perhaps saving, or hoarding up? And are there any gifts that we're 'mismanaging'?

