



In the parable of the crooked steward in Luke 16:1-13, Jesus tells us that this unjust man had been squandering his boss's money and possessions. He had been stealing from the owner and when caught, he's told to give account, plus that he was fired! This man then realizes he doesn't want to work hard or find himself begging, so he goes a step further to reduce the debt of all the owner's clients, in exchange for future benefits.

That's why Jesus said that the master found that this worldly man was more shrewd in his pursuit of future earthly benefits, than some believers seek for God's kingdom. What then is the message that Jesus meant to give us?

In essence, this parable describes what many believers do, that while they may be investing much in planning for this life's short retirement, they fail to invest for their eternal retirement with God. This is not simply referring to money, but more importantly as to how we focus our energies and invest our time and efforts to share the message of Christ so the lost may be saved.

Are we more focused on this world, or are we rather serving our Lord. In Mat 6:21 Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Where's our treasure right now?

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In this world, the principle of investing for good returns is a passion for some, and a profession for others. It also involves risks as crooks will always try to use deception to steal our money. While the principle of investing for the future is wise, do we realize that whatever time, effort or money invested in this life only lasts a short period of time, for a retirement that might last maybe 20 years?

In Mat 6:20 Jesus said, “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” In other words, spiritual investments in the Kingdom of God is guaranteed to provide heavenly blessings that will last eternally.

Again, comparing the eternal Kingdom of God to this world, Jesus, in Mat 13:44, shows us the kingdom attitude we must have for our lives: “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” In essence, a heart attitude to seek to further the Kingdom of God is like investing in a spiritual gold mine that is never depleted.

How we steadfastly seek God’s Kingdom and study His Word clearly demonstrates where our heart lies.

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The bible says that God has in essence deposited the notion of eternity in our hearts. Shouldn't we then seek out and desire to find out what eternity holds for us?

In the world, any strategy used for a profitable return never guarantees what the return will be, yet people play the stock market every day in hope of harvesting a plentiful profit. The clear difference is that while the world cannot guarantee a harvest, God promises that investing in His Kingdom guarantees to provide us with blessed returns for eternity.

That's why Paul in 2 Cor 4:18 said, "We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal." In fact, our earthly investments will die with us, while our investments with God are eternal.

Jesus clearly taught us that we must make sure that money, or the things of this world do not become the focus of our lives. He said "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Luke 16:13)

Are we daily seeking God's wisdom, or do we follow the foolishness of the world?

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