

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – November 08, 2020

Theme: Spiritual Discipline for Christian Growth Topic: Stewardship of Time and Money

Main Text: Luke 16: 1-15; Ephesians 5: 8–21

Key verse: Luke 16:13 *“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: In biblical times, a steward was a trusted servant, usually someone born in the household, who was chief of the management and distribution of household provision. He provided food for all the other servants, thus managing his master’s resources in the interest of his master and for the well-being of others. He acted as an agent for his master, with full authority to transact business in the master’s name. Jesus’ parable in Luke 16:1-15 tells the story of one such steward. Interestingly, the steward’s crime was not that he enriched himself at his master’s expense. Rather, he is accused of wasting his master’s resources; the details of which we can only imagine.

1. **(a) What do you think is the principle Jesus wants us to learn about stewardship from this parable? See Luke 16:10-12 (b) What possibly are some of the things the unrighteous steward did wrong in his work? (c) In the light of Haggai 2:8; Psalm 24:1, in what ways do we make similar mistake(s) in our stewardship responsibilities?**

If the master had not asked this steward to render account, he would probably have carried on with his mismanagement of his master’s resources. It took the reality of being fired to bring him to his senses. To his credit, he had enough sense to adjust when he had the chance; even if it was for his own selfish interest – ‘*Ah, I know how to ensure that I’ll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.*’ (Luke 16:4 NLT). The Pharisees did not think much of Jesus’ parable. They just mocked, possibly supposing that Jesus was teaching as He did because He was not ‘wealthy’. But Jesus wants us to learn something from and do better than both the Pharisees and the unrighteous steward.

2. **(a) What principle does Jesus want us to learn from Luke 16:13? (b) How would you interpret Jesus’ statement that ‘*the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light*’? (Luke 16:8b) (c) How do you think 2a and 2b can apply this in our stewardship in a way which is different from the world’s?**

Sadly, the Pharisees’ love for money prevented them from accepting Jesus teaching in this parable. And many are like that today. However, money is not the only thing we are to steward well. In addition to the financial resources entrusted to us, God has also entrusted us with time; and He is interested in what and how we expend the time He has allocated to each of us. Ephesians 5 outlines some of the ways our being in Christ should affect our use of time: “*Don’t take part in doing those worthless things ... Instead, show how wrong they are*” (Ephesians 5:11 CEV); *So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity... Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.*” (Ephesians 5:15-17 NLT) *You used to be like people living in the dark, but now you are people of the light because you belong to the Lord. So, act like people of the light.*” (Ephesians 5:8 CEV). Clear dos and don’ts.

3. **(a) Read Psalm 39:4-5; Ephesians 5:8; John 9:4 and identify some motivations for redeeming the time? (b) What practical ways of redeeming time do we find in Ephesians 5:11, 15-17? (c) What is your key takeaway from this study on stewardship of time and money?**

Prayer: *Thank You Father for the time and riches you have graciously entrusted to us. Please help to use our time and resources wisely to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.*