



## Today's Message

Date: August 15, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas

Title: *Integrity: A Matter of Being and Doing*

Text: Luke 16:1–13 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup> And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ <sup>3</sup> And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup> “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. <sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? <sup>13</sup> No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Introduction: This text contains one of the most perplexing parables Jesus told: the story of “the unjust steward.” Even so, the point of the story seems quite clear. Though speaking to the disciples, Jesus’ story was directed to the Pharisees (cf. v.14); it is a warning against living for this age rather than the age to come.

**I. The story retold: Jesus told the disciples a story about an incompetent and dishonest steward. 1-8a**

- A. A rich man was informed of his steward’s incompetence. 1
- B. He fired the steward and called for an audit of the books. 2
- C. The steward “cooked the books” to ingratiate himself to the rich man’s debtors. 3-7
- D. The rich man praised the dishonest steward for his shrewdness! 8a

**II. The point of the story (take-home truth): The unrighteous are wise about temporal things, but the righteous should be wiser about eternal things. 8b**

**III. Jesus applied the point in three principles: 9-13**

- A. The wise invest in the eternal good of others. 9
- B. The wise display their character by faithfulness in small things. 10-12
- C. The wise resist divided loyalties. 13