

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**LUKE 16****Luke 16**

The chapters of the Gospel according to Luke are so lengthy that they can often cover various subjects or expand on one theme. The latter seems to be the case in this instance. The first part of Luke sixteen speaks of stewardship and a situation of a person who was not productive and not being a good servant of his master. But when the master calls his steward to account, the steward wisely liquidates the debts owed to the master and gives the master what is required in short order.

There are three basic interpretations of this story. I lean toward the reality that a steward is charged to handle a certain assignment and do it faithfully. He was not moving the master's goods as was required of him. So, the servant lowered the price, evidently which he was authorized to do, and most likely removed the amount that would have been the profit or commission that was coming to him. The reason I lean toward this is the commendation of the master. The master evidently did not lose anything but was promptly given what was due him after reprimanding the steward. The steward, once confronted, immediately acted on the rebuke and moved to pay the master his due. The Lord Jesus drew from the story to state that the one who is faithful in discharging faithfully in small matters will be faithful in more meaningful and weightier assignments.

The Lord further stated that this also applies to the Kingdom of God and true riches. True riches are eternal issues that deal with the Kingdom of God and Biblical things of the Spirit. Jesus speaks specifically to the reality that if a person mishandles and is unfaithful in dealing with "mammon," which refers to money and material things, that person will not be given insight into those things which pertain to the things of the Spirit. Perhaps the reason for this is if a person is not faithful to obey in the things that are clearly taught in the Bible, they will not be given insight into the great mysteries of the Kingdom of God or further insights. God doesn't give us truth to play with or to parade around with our spiritual head and nose in the air. "**Knowledge puffs up,**" but rather, God gives us Biblical truth to *obey*.

We will look at the realities of both *heaven* and *hell* in the scriptures coming up as we make our way through the New Testament. The last half of this chapter deals with the ultimate blinding of sin, especially with those who have been given much in this life, only to misuse it and abuse the blessing of wealth and plenty by not sharing with those at *our gate*.

Prayer and Action Steps

God gives us time, talents, and treasures to bless us and others. God gives us time, talents, and treasures, not as toys to play with but as tools to use in blessing and serving others.

Dear Lord, please help me be sensitive to be faithful to You in every aspect of my life and live every moment in obedience to You. Amen