

Luke 16:1-15

“Love God Above All Things”

September 18, 2016

God would rejoice if we were able to honestly accumulate \$10 million dollars and then at the end of our lives have nothing left because we gave it all away. Likewise God would rejoice if we never had more than \$2 at one time in our lives and then at the end of our lives we have nothing left. Money and possessions are meaningless to God unless we allow them to become our god. We allow money and possessions to become our god when they take control of our lives. God wants to be first in our lives.

In our text the manager of a rich man's money and possessions was found to be a poor manager. Before the rich man could take his job from him, the manager gave away some of the rich man's possessions so that he would be welcome in the homes of those owing the rich man. He said to one man, you owe my master 100 bushels of wheat. I will mark the bill down so that you only owe him 80 bushels of wheat. The rich man commended the manager of his money and possessions for his worldly wisdom. However the manager also proved he should be fired.

Our God created this world. He could have created this world into a huge golden ball or a huge diamond. What we consider to be so important is unimportant to our God. Instead we are important to God. We are so important to

God that Jesus Christ gave His life for us. In our world we have seen rich and powerful individuals. Everyone of them took nothing with them when they went to the grave and now face God on Judgment Day. Some have been known to place gold or other riches in their graves. A box of bones is not going to spend anything.

We are encouraged to give our wealth away in this life so that we will build up treasure in heaven. The sad part of this story is that if we give money in this life to gain a better place in heaven, then we will gain nothing. When we give to gain something for ourselves, then we are being selfish. When we give to glorify our God, then we store up riches in heaven. So I just serve God out of my love for Him and let Him take care of the rest.

I am intrigued by at statement in our text. When we are faithful in small things, then God will give us even greater things to manage. I think that I would view it this way. Love comes from God. When I am faithful to God in loving a few, the God will give me even more to love in a sacrificial way. When I am content in the midst of small trials, then God will give me even greater trials so that I am an even greater witness for Him.

This manager told us that he was too proud to beg on the streets. This manager told us that he was too soft to dig ditches. Our Father in heaven tells us the exact opposite. Pride is our enemy not the motivation for what we do and say.

Likewise our weakness is our strength because then we trust God to give us the strength to walk the path of life into eternity. When life takes our health and our wealth, we have Christ to walk with us and strengthen us. When life takes our loved ones, our family and our friends, we have Christ to walk with us and strengthen us. Life is not about our miserable condition, but about the love of our God expressed on the Cross at Calvary.

People want to turn to God and have Him fix their problems. People want God to fix their loved ones who bring pain to our lives. Often these people never go to God except when they want God to fix things or they want something from Him. Instead they enjoy all that the world has to offer on their limited resources. I know of one individual who maxed out the charge cards to do drugs. They are chasing the high and they don't care what the future may bring. In fact they do not believe that there will be a future because drug addicts often throw their future away for the high of the moment. God gives us the freedom to make those choices, but there will come a Judgment Day when we will pay for our choices.

We live in His undeserved grace and mercy. It is never too late this side of the grave to repent and find His forgiveness. The longer we wait to repent, the harder we find it to repent and follow Him. The longer we wait to repent, the harder we find it to live in His peace and hope. The longer we wait to repent, the harder we find it to be content in every and all circumstances in life. Amen.