

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity Sunday  
St. Luke 16:1-9  
August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC  
Simpsonville, SC  
St. Michael and All Angels Evangelical Lutheran Mission, UAC  
Augusta, GA  
Pastor Jerald Dulas

## You Can No Longer Be Steward

*In Nomine Iesu!*

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:**

Lord God, Heavenly Father, Who hast appointed us all as Thy stewards, grant that we may not waste the goods entrusted to us, but rightly employ them, and with our temporal things make to ourselves friends, that we may be received into everlasting habitations; through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

This parable of our Lord is given in the midst of several parables recorded by the Evangelist St. Luke which our Lord + Jesus preached in response to the scribes and Pharisees complaining that our Lord + Jesus received sinners and ate with them. This particular parable was spoken to His Apostles in the hearing of other people. This was instruction for the Apostles on how to interact with people in this world. This parable angered the Pharisees, we are told by St. Luke, because they loved money. Our Lord + Jesus then proceeds to tell everyone the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, which we had on the First Sunday after Trinity Sunday. So, this parable has to do with sinners and those who love money. Lovers of money and earthly possessions—of mammon—will find it hard to enter into the heavenly realms.

The scribes and Pharisees serve as our example of those who love money. Lovers of money tend to think they are better than other people. They have their god—mammon—and therefore do not need any other god. They disdain any other people who do not love money as much as they do. The sinners and tax collectors, who were received by the Lord + Jesus before all these parables, only wanted to have as their Lord + Jesus. They viewed Him as the Messiah, the Anointed of the Lord God, Who had come down from Heaven to be with them. When they believed on the Lord + Jesus as the Messiah, they had no need for any other false god. They had no need for money or possessions. They had the one thing needful; they had the true treasure of the Christ, the Son of God.

The scribes and Pharisees, who rejected the Lord + Jesus as the Messiah, still clung to their false god of money and possessions. They loved their earthly things. They loved the things of this world. There are many in our day and age who are not much different. They are also lovers of money and possessions. They love unrighteous mammon. So then, why does our Lord + Jesus tell us to make friends with this unrighteous mammon? Would it not be better to not have it around us at all so that we are not tempted by it?

Our Lord would have us use unrighteous mammon to make friends so that they may see our

generosity and kindness. This is the point of the parable. The Lord would have us use the money and possessions that He gifts us with in this life to further the Kingdom of Heaven. We are not to be misers with our earthly possessions. We are to be generous and abundant in our giving of them to other people. This is the purpose, after all, of earthly possessions. They certainly can serve us and our needs, but after our needs are met, earthly possessions can be used to benefit others in this life who are in need. They will see our good deeds, and will be more receptive to hearing the good news of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ.

This is why the shrewdness of the unjust steward is praised by the certain rich man, because in his taking the liberty of reducing the debts of the rich man's debtors, the rich man also received the benefit of being viewed as a generous man. Such is the same with our possessions we are to give them liberally for the benefit of others, so that they may view the Lord God has a gracious and merciful God through our actions.

The steward of the parable is called an unjust steward. He is wasteful of the rich man's goods. A steward is someone who is supposed to manage another person's goods for the benefit of the whole household. We are stewards of the gifts of the Lord God. He gives us both physical, earthly gifts which we are to use to the benefit of His Kingdom, and He also gives us spiritual gifts, which we are to use for the benefit of the Kingdom of Heaven. The unjust steward was the type of steward who was only using the rich man's goods for his own benefit. He was supposed to be the manager of the house, and provide the house with the rich man's possessions so that the whole house would benefit. He rather used the rich man's possession only to make his own life better; to the detriment of the whole house.

We are also made stewards by the Lord God. We are to be good stewards of all that He gives to us, both our physical and spiritual gifts. But sadly, if we are being honest, we must confess that we are unjust stewards. We too often hoard our possessions. We cling to our earthly possessions, not allowing anyone to share or receive a benefit from them. Even worse, we are prone to do the same thing with our spiritual gifts. We are all too eager to receive forgiveness for our sins, but when someone sins against us, we are too quick to hold his sins against him. We need to be as liberal with forgiving the debts of those who sin against us, as the unjust steward was with forgiving the debts of his master. The sons of this age are more prudent with the unrighteous mammon they receive than we, the sons of light are, with the righteous gifts which our Lord God freely gives to us.

We are all unjust stewards and are not worthy any longer to be managers of the things of the Lord God. We fail miserably every day. We are indeed poor, miserable sinners. We are the tax collectors and sinners who are received by the Lord + Jesus. For He is the perfect steward of the Lord's gifts. He is the perfect house manager of the Lord God. He forsook all earthly possessions, so that He might offer up His life as a ransom for ours on the tree of the holy cross. He freely gave all that He owned, even His own life, to win for us an eternal Kingdom—an everlasting home in Heaven. He freely gives to us, and all those who believe on Him, the one thing needful, the true treasures of Heaven: forgiveness, life and salvation.

Truly blessed is the house that not only graciously receives the gifts of the Lord God, but uses them in order to draw all men closer to the true source of all worldly possessions. For everything that we own or possess—everything we claim as our own—has been given to us by the Lord God, in order that we might use them as good stewards. A good steward not only shares freely with others the earthly gifts he has received, but also freely shares with others the spiritual gifts that he has been given. We have been brought into this house of the Lord God to receive forgiveness, life and salvation through the means of grace. All those who cling to Him in faith, who have been brought by us, will also share in the same gifts that we have received.

My dear friends, let us not be stingy, miserly, unjust stewards, only using our possessions to

better our own lives, but let us be generous and abundant in sharing them with all those whom our Lord God has put in our path to help. For the day will come when we will no longer have need or use of our earthly possessions. We will all one day be called to our eternal homes in Heaven. Our earthly possessions will not be taken with us. They will be left behind for others to use. This is how we are to view our possessions, as things that we will someday give over to someone else. We will not keep them forever. We will take them with us into the grave.

In Heaven, our Lord God will supply us with everything that we will ever need for our eternal life in Heaven. There we will no longer need that which we possess here on Earth. The only thing that we truly need in this life is the one thing that we will be able to take with us into Heaven. The one thing needful is the Lord + Jesus, the Christ. He is the true treasure of this life and the next. He is the one thing to which we can cling to in this life, and to which we will cling to eternally in Heaven. For He is the true and righteous steward Who used the things given to Him by His heavenly Father to win salvation for all mankind by His death on the cross, so that He might draw all mankind to believe on Him and be saved. Let us give thanks to the Lord God for this great benefit to which we cling to in this life, and will rejoice over for all eternity in Heaven. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:**

Almighty God, be pleased to accompany Thy Word with Thy Holy Spirit and grant that Thy Word would increase faith in us; bring into the Way of Truth all such as have erred; turn the hearts of the unrepentant; and for sake of Thy Name grant succor to all heavy hearts and those who are heavy-laden, that they may through the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ be relieved and preserved so that they succumb not to the temptation of despair but rather that they gain the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

**The Votum:**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*