

# Special Lesson - Great Lent

## Lesson 4. The Parable of the Unjust Steward

### Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

**Scripture References:** Luke 16:1-13

\*Student can take turns reading this parable

**Video Lesson:** [The Parable of the Unjust Steward](#) (duration 6:10)

#### Activity 1: Reflect Upon

\*Can be done as a class by using a whiteboard or flipchart

**Activity 2:** The Dishonest Manager worksheet

**Items needed:** The printout of the worksheet and pens or pencils (found on the fourth page)

**Activity 3** (optional): Honesty Key Chain

**Directions:** Give each child a chenille wire (florist wire) or an inexpensive key chain to hang “honesty circles” from to remind children the “keys to being honest”. Give the children round circles to decorate and write words to remind them to be honest. For example: in school, with friends, with family, with teachers. Hole punch the circles and hang them on the key chain. This activity from [www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com)

#### MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Honesty and preparing for the Kingdom of Heaven.

#### Words of the week:

տնտես - dun-des - steward

դրամ - tuh-ram - money

տէր - der - Lord, master

#### Memory Verse:

**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 mammon.**

**Luke 16:13**

# Lesson

## Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

*\*Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

### Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց եւ ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos yev paneets yen kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

## Lesson Body:

Throughout his three year ministry, Jesus taught many parables. Some are easy to understand, some are a little more difficult, like complicated puzzles. The Parable of the Unjust Steward in the Gospel of **Luke 16:1-13** is one of the puzzling ones. In some ways this parable resemble to the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Both talk about waisting one's treasures. As the Prodigal Son waisted his father's possessions (his inheritance), was left with nothing and found his way back to his father's house, likewise the unjust steward used his master's money and debtors to secure his future. He knew well that after losing his job, he would not have an income to live a lavish life he was used to. So, he decided to help others and gain friends who would be helpful to him in the future. By doing so, he received the praise of his master. This is exactly where it becomes puzzing. Is the unjust steward upheld as an admirable character?

The steward broke his master's trust, stole from him and did even greater harm by changing the amounts of debts owed to his master. Yet, the master praised him for his actions. Why do you think he did this?

Besides the importance of trust, this parable teaches us that we need to be prepared for our future, not only by securing our future here on earth (by taking our responsibilities seriously, improving our skills or saving money) but in heaven as well.

This is easily forgotten because we are constinantly told by our teachers and parents to prepare for our future by getting a good education, working hard, and making smart decisions, but rarely are we taught how to prepare for the kingdom of heaven.

Christ explains in the parable that preparing for the kingdom of heaven is just as important, if not more important, than prepaing for this life. Everything we are given in this life is to be used in preparation for the kingdom to come.

How can you use that which God has given you to prepare for heaven? Naturally, you cannot buy anything in order to secure your place in heaven. Well, what can you do? What did the steward do to prepare for his future? Is Jesus saying we should cheat people to get to heaven? How can we learn from the steward what to do and what not to do?

Great Lent is a time of reflection, sacrifice and strengthening our will to be able to say no to temptations. We can't serve two masters. The idea of having, sometimes is more powerful than the idea of needing. This is true for food and physical items. When we fast, pray and give alms, we free ourselves of wants, which are sometimes overwhelmingly too many, and are holding us hostage. Instead, we try to be grateful when our daily needs are met. Through fasting, prayer and almsgiving, we make a conscious effort to be free and only depend on God and His strength.

## REFLECT UPON

What have you been able to say no to during this Lent?

How can you work harder on your spiritual journey?

Who can help you improve on this journey?

### Words of the Week:

տնտես - dndes - steward

դրամ - tram - money

տէր - der - Lord, master

### Memory Verse:

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 mammon.

Luke 16:13

Video Lesson: [The Parable of the Unjust Steward](#) (duration 6:10)

### READ FROM THE BIBLE: LUKE 16:1-13

#### *The Parable of the Shrewd Manager*

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ““Nine hundred gallons[a] of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ ““A thousand bushels[b] of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

# The Dishonest Manager



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a \_\_\_\_\_ man whose \_\_\_\_\_ was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

"Whoever can be \_\_\_\_\_ with very \_\_\_\_\_ can also be trusted with much, and whoever is \_\_\_\_\_ with very little will also be dishonest with \_\_\_\_\_. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

"No \_\_\_\_\_ can serve two \_\_\_\_\_. Either he will \_\_\_\_\_ the one and \_\_\_\_\_ the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

Luke 16:1-2, 10-13 (NIV)

dishonest	little	masters	rich
God	love	Money	servant
hate	manager	much	trusted

# Review

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## Memory Verse Review:

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 mammon. (Luke 16:13)

## Lesson Review:

### Questions:

1. What are two things you cannot serve at the same time? (God and mammon (worldly things))
2. What did the steward do? (He went and gave discounts to those who owed the master money)
3. Why did he give discounts to those owing money to the master? (He was making friends with these people so when he had no job, they would help him)
4. How did the master react to this? (He was impressed that even the steward was able to think about his future and prepare for it)
5. What is a steward? (someone who takes care of things, someone who is trusted with certain responsibilities)

## Words of the Week:

տնտես - dndes - steward

դրամ - tram - money

տէր - der - Lord, master

## Life Application:

We must learn to prepare for the future, especially prepare for heaven. We prepare for heaven by living a good, faithful life in Christ, praying often, helping others in need, and being active members in the life of the Church.

*\* Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

### Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesher-ee, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sa-sanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.