

# Make Money Your Friend!

*KJV Luke 16:9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.*

*10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*

*11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?*

**Mammon** is wealth, riches and money!

**Friend** is a person held in a position of trust because of **common interests**.

Jesus tells a parable of a manager who mismanaged his bosses' affairs.

*Luke 16:3 "The manager (steward) 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!*

*4 I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'*

The manager or steward of the rich man's money had no other skill set and didn't want to do manual labor and he didn't want to do an ordinary job.

So, the manager went to each person who owed his boss money and had them pay **in kind, not in money!**

The one who owed money for wheat paid in wheat, the one who owed for oil paid with oil rather than money!

The manager made his bosses debtors **obligated to him** rather than his boss by reducing their debt and allowing them to pay what they could in the way they could.

His cleverness has now made the people no longer see him as a debt collector, but a friend, someone who understood their circumstances and helped them.

How we use money affects how people view and classify us!

- If you use money to **buy drugs**, people will see you as a **drug addict!**
- If you use money to **sell drugs**, people will see you as a **drug dealer!**
- If you use money to start businesses, people will see you as a business person!
- If you use money to benefit others, people will see you as a **philanthropist!**

**A philanthropist** is someone who seeks to promote the welfare of others by the generous donation of money.

From two Greek words **philo**—meaning *friend* and **anthropy**—meaning *man!*

As someone who took money from people the steward was seen as an enemy; when he changed (**adapted to his circumstances**) he is seen as a **friend of the people!**

His condition made him adapt or change his position!

*KJV Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*

The word **power** means strength might and ability. But it has a hidden meaning.

- It also means **lizard**, a small reptile.

A **lizard** is an extremely adaptable creature; a chameleon can change color in an instant and blend into its environment.

The Jewish people are the most adaptable people on the planet, no matter where they're dispersed, **they adapt to the environment and culture and rise to the top.**

Being **adaptable** is **not** just knowing what to change and when; but also knowing what **not to change!**

**Daniel** adapted when taken to Babylon, he didn't eat the food, but he learned a new language, changed his clothes and allowed them to change his name. **He didn't lose control when they called him out of his name!**

Daniel rose to the top becoming second in command under the king.

**Joseph** adapted, he changed his clothes learned a new language and culture and rose to second in command.

**Moses** adapted in reverse order, his social, economic and political status changed, he went from being second in command to wandering in the wilderness until God got him, taught him and raised him up!

What parts of my life do I need to change to stay relevant and productive in my life.

What parts of me are anointed gifts of God and never need to be altered or changed.

**A chameleon makes itself almost invisible and non-threatening!**

The word **threat** has many synonyms: **enemy, dangerous, trouble and hazardous.**

- When people see an enemy, they seek to eliminate them, but when they see a friend they welcome them.

This is how people came to see Joseph, Daniel, Moses and **The Steward**.

When people see you as a **friend** a **benefit** and **credit** to society you prosper!

**John 3:16** God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son.... God is the first and greatest **philanthropist!** Nobody loves humanity more than God!

Notice what God gave was not money! But Christ, The Holy Spirit and The Word to **change** how we think, so we can **adapt** to a fallen world system and prosper!

### **The next part of the story confuses many Christians!**

*ESV Luke 16:8 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.*

People mistakenly think Jesus praises this man for doing a wicked business deal!

Jesus called him **unrighteous**, the praise is not about the managers character (business skills and ethics) but about his wisdom (people skills and cleverness).

The manager obviously had **ungodly business skills**, but he had **incredible people skills**, because ultimately life is about reaching, working and living with people.

He might possibly ruin his relationship with one person (his boss), but cleverly make better relationships with his clients and other business people.

**His willingness to take a risk and adapt may cost him favor with his boss while he gains favor with many and he used money to do it!**

#### **❖ This is what this parable is all about!**

*GWN Luke 16:9 Jesus continued, "I'm telling you that although wealth is often used in dishonest ways, you should use it to make friends for yourselves. When life is over, you will be welcomed into an eternal home.*

Jesus says ***make money your friend and use money to make friends!***

Jesus says “***how the world uses money to deal with people is often wiser than how Christians use money to deal with people.***”

This **unjust** manager knew how to turn a bad situation around and make his boss, himself and the debtors satisfied.

#### **He used money to make friends of potential enemies and adversaries!**

The manager has gained public favor for himself and for his boss portraying him as a generous business man; if the boss punishes the manager now, the boss would look bad in the public's eye.

The boss has lost money initially, but this **perceived** act of kindness might increase his business in the long run—this was a wise act and his boss knew it!

**This message is NOT to encourage anyone to break the law or act dishonestly!**

#### **❖ The message is use money to advance the lives of others!**

**At first the unjust manger was stealing money from his boss and using it exclusively on himself! That got him nowhere but in trouble!**

**But when he used money to benefit others it advanced his life and others!**

*GWN Luke 16:10 Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with a lot. Whoever is dishonest with very little is dishonest with a lot.*

Jesus says if a person can be trusted to bless people when they have very little, they can be trusted to be a blessing when they have much!

*GWN Luke 16:11 Therefore, if you can't be trusted with wealth that is often used dishonestly, who will trust you with wealth that is real?*

**Jesus** says if we cannot be trusted to use wealth to benefit others, how can we be trusted with the **true riches**.

Earthly wealth is not the real thing! It's not genuine, it's temporarily!

Spending money on ourselves alone, we will eventually make money our enemy!

Learning to spend money to benefit others will make money our friend because of the friend's money brings us!

The **unjust manager** used money as a friend to increase the common interests of everyone in his business community!

*GWN Luke 16:12 If you can't be trusted with someone else's wealth, who will give you your own?*

**If you can't treat someone else's money as a friend how can money be a friend to you?**

*KJV Proverbs 17:17 A friend loveth at all times, (during good times and bad).*

When we learn to make money our friend it will stick around if we make money an enemy it will leave us and even fight against us!

*NIV Proverbs 18:24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*