



Servant's Corner

April 2012

A Surprising Test For Leadership

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

Is money a big deal to Jesus? Luke 16:1-13 tells us the answer is both “Yes” and “No”. Money itself is not a big deal at all to Jesus. He calls it “unrighteous mammon”(v 9,11), and “a very little thing” (v. 10). He emphasizes that money will fail us (v 9). He says that serving money is antithetical to serving God (v 13). On the other hand, even though Jesus downplays the importance of money, He says the way we manage money is **very** important. *If therefore you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you?* (v 11)

How about that? God uses our money management as a test to see if we can handle **true** riches. What are true riches? Here's a hint: Outside the four gospels, the word “steward” is never associated with money in the rest of the New Testament. Instead you'll find stewardship connected with things like: Spiritual gifts (1 Peter 4:10), the privilege of preaching the good news about God's grace (1 Cor. 9:17, Eph. 3:2), and the responsibility of being a leader in the church (Col. 1:25, Titus 1:7).

It's amazing to me that God is willing to delegate authority to the likes of us. We are even told that at some point in the future we will judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3). One of the tests He uses to see if we are faithful stewards, ready to take on this responsibility, is our use of money. That ought to make us think twice before pulling out our credit cards to buy something we can't afford and really don't need in the first place. May we serve Him well in our stewardship of His money.



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