Luke 16:1-13

The passage we are sharing today is considered one of the most difficult of Jesus' parables. First, we must look at the conclusion in verse 13. The conclusion of this parable is that you cannot serve both God and money.

Why then did Jesus commend the man who seemingly forged promissory notes and harmed his master's wealth?

To understand this, we must first grasp how the Jews in Jesus' time viewed interest in lending and borrowing (Deuteronomy 23:19-20). Among Jews, charging interest was forbidden. Whether it was food, money, or anything else, they were not to charge interest. However, all ancient Jewish records indicate that usury (exorbitant interest) was common. According to biblical scholars, the usual interest rate exceeded 50%.

How can we reconcile this contradiction? While the Old Testament law forbade charging interest to brothers and neighbors, many records show that usury was rampant during Jesus' time. When lending money, they would include the interest in the amount written on the promissory note.

In this context, we must understand today's parable. What is the lesson Jesus wanted to teach us about wealth?

First, we must recognize that we are stewards of wealth.

A steward is a servant entrusted with managing the master's great wealth. It seems obvious, but what a steward must know is that he is not the owner. He must use the master's resources according to the master's will.

Believing in Jesus means a change in ownership. Jesus becomes the Lord of our lives—our hearts, our thoughts, our time, and of course, our possessions. Everything belongs to Jesus, and He entrusts them to us.

There are several parables in the Bible about stewards. The important point is that there is always a time of accounting. We must understand that what we have has been given by the Lord, and there will come a time when He will settle accounts with us concerning our material possessions.

Second, wealth must be used for the master and according to the master's will.

Why did the steward in the passage misuse wealth unrighteously and go against God's word? Because he loved money. His greed led him.

But once he realized he was a steward, how did he change? He began to use money according to the word, and according to the master's will. Through this, he revealed the master's generosity. He used unrighteous wealth for the master and for others. This is repentance.

Jesus said the entire Law and Prophets hang on these two commands: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind," and "Love your neighbor as yourself." Use your possessions to love God and love others.

It is required of stewards that they be found faithful. From this perspective, we understand why the word "faithfulness" appears repeatedly in verses 10-12 of today's passage. To be faithful with the master's resources means using wealth according to the master's will and for His glory.

Bible Memori-zation

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."
(1 Timothy 6:10)

Bible Reading

5/12(Mon)	5/13(Tue)	5/14(Wed)	5/15(Thur)	5/16(Fri)	5/17(Sat)	5/18(Sun)
2 Kings 15-17	2 Kings 18-19	2 Kings 20-22	2 Kings 23-24	2 Kings 25, 1 Chronicle 1-2	1 Chronicle 3-5	1 Chronicle 6

QT

Quiet Time Passage

5/12(Mon)	5/13(Tue)	5/14(Wed)	5/15(Thur)	5/16(Fri)	5/17(Sat)	5/18(Sun)
Num. 22:1-14	Num. 22:15-30	Num. 22:31-40	Num. 22:41-23:12	Num. 23:13-26	Num. 23:27-24:9	Num. 24:10-25

Sharing Questions

1. Share how you experienced God's grace in your life through last week's message or your daily devotion.

2. Share any new realizations or blessings you received through today's message.

3. Reflect on whether you are living as a faithful steward regarding money and possessions, and pray for one another.