

# Interdenominational Sunday School lesson

## Teaching About Stewardship Luke 16:13; 19-31

Luke 16:12-And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Stewardship is using wisely those things that have been entrusted to us, our time, our talent and our money. In those days about which Jesus spoke, in the parable to teach the disciples about stewardship, a steward was a person who managed the affairs of his employer. In a sense, everyone is a manager, rather than an owner. Our Heavenly Father owns everything on earth. He allows us to manage His goods. There are some church members who do not like for the pastor to preach on stewardship. They probably call it "Preaching on Money." I knew a man who would, on occasion, and jokingly, chide his pastor for preaching on sin and money. However, pastors need to deliver sermons on stewardship from time to time if they are to fulfill their responsibilities. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians, "Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be

found faithful." In today's lesson, Jesus is using His usual way of teaching, that of using parables, to bring into focus for his disciples this matter of stewardship and their responsibilities. Jesus knew that a good Christian life would depend on where the person put his emphasis in the areas concerning spiritual and material things. Jesus made His point by relating a story.

### The Precidement of a Manager Luke 16:1-2

A rich man had a manager to handle his affairs. Someone reported to the rich man that the manager was wasting and mismanaging his property. So the rich man called him on the carpet and asked for an accounting. Being unable to account satisfactorily for his actions meant that he would be fired from his position, and he knew that it was coming.

### The Plan of a Manager Luke 16:3-7

This manager, who was about to be dismissed for unfaithfulness, had a dilemma. How would he live? There would be no openings anywhere for ex-managers who couldn't be

trusted. He was not physically strong enough for manual labor-and to beg would be humiliating. So he conceived a plan that would at least offer temporary relief, even though the plan would just dig the hole of dishonesty even deeper. There was another way out, but apparently he did not think of it. To confess to his master and ask for forgiveness, and hopefully put himself back on the right track. His plan, however, involved making some of his customers indebted to him, and thus likely

welcome him into their homes. In modern jargon, he took the accounts receivables and reduced the amount that certain debtors owed to his employer. This would put him in a favorable position with them, and he would then be able to call on them for favors in the future. It is here in the parable that we come to a strange situation. Verse 8 commends the unjust steward because he had done wisely. This part of the parable has been difficult for Bible scholars to interpret.

## The Application from Jesus Luke 16:8-13

Was Jesus saying in verse 8 that a dishonest action was "wise"? No! of course not. The manager showed cunning, astuteness in taking care of himself in a materialistic way, for someone thinking only of the things of this world, but what would have been the case if this manager, with his intelligence and aptitude, had applied himself to heavenly things. His creativeness would be valuable

to the Kingdom's work. The person who lays up treasures only for himself is not rich toward God. The steward gained friends by his actions, and was wise in making friends. Christians should make friends, also. Our possessions will fail in the final analysis, unless we are able to take them beyond the grave, through the right management and use.

(Lessons based on International Sunday Lessons.)

## Register-White wed in Tarboro Dec. 24

Patricia Ann Register and David Hilton White were married at 3 p.m. December 24 at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Tarboro. The Rev. Noah B. Howard officiated at the double-ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Register of Tarboro. The groom's parents are Jeanne C. White and the late Hilton M. White of Hertford.

Given in marriage by her parents and escorted by her father, the bride wore a formal-length candlelight satin gown with lace overlays at the bodice, which was embroidered with seed pearls.

The bouffant sleeves were complimented by matching satin and lace gauntlets. The gown extended into a chapel-length train, which was accented with matching lace. The bride wore a string of pearls given to her by her grandparents in Japan.

Maid of honor was Linda K. Register, the bride's sister, of Pensacola, Fla. Bridesmaids were Jane Wilson of Walkertown and Nancy Owens of Tarboro.

The groom chose his cousin, Dennis Symons of Raleigh, as his best man. Ushers were Reggie White, the groom's brother, of Hertford; and Joe Bullard of

Raleigh. Directing the ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Register, the bride's uncle and aunt of Fountain. Organist for the ceremony was Warren Ball of Tarboro.

The bride's parents hosted a reception in the church fellowship hall after the ceremony.

Presiding at the bridal register were Mrs. Donald Carlyle, the bride's aunt of Henderson; and Mrs. Jack Symons, the groom's aunt of Hertford.

Serving wedding cake was Mrs. Earl Bullock, the bride's aunt of Lake Gaston. Serving punch were Mrs. R.E. Thompson Jr., the bride's cousin of Rocky Mount; and Penny Williams of Tarboro.

The newlyweds will reside in California.

### Courtesies

The couple was honored with these events:

An after-rehersal dinner given by the groom's mother at the Tarboro Inn.

An open house at the home of the groom's mother on December 26 to welcome the newlyweds.

A miscellaneous shower hosted by Kathleen Ryan in Hollywood, Ca.



Mrs. David H. White

## Church news

First Baptist Church will hold a missionary hour on Sunday morning, following the Church School at 9:45. Rev. J.H. London, pastor, will preach from the subject, "Mission in Action" and a special choir made up of members of Memorial Baptist Church and Bagley Chapel Baptist Church, under the direction of Gwayland McClenney, will sing.

First Baptist will hold a mid-week prayer and bible study class on Wednesday night at 7:30.

The Young Adult Choir of First Baptist will celebrate their Anniversary next Sunday, Feb. 6, at 2:30. Special guest will be from the Long Ridge Baptist Church of Plymouth. Rev. London invites you to attend these services.

Saug Harbor Community Church will sponsor a Ham or Chicken supper on Saturday, January 29, in the Clubhouse from 5 until 7 p.m.

Plates will be sold at \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. They will include Ham or Chicken, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Slaw, Baked Beans, Homemade Rolls with dessert at an extra charge.

The Community Church will hold regular Sunday morning services beginning at 9 a.m. with Sunday School and Fellowship at 10:30. The youth will meet on Monday night and the choir will practice on Friday night.

Rev. Quinton Jordon will preach at the Ellis Temple Baptist Church in Winfall on the third Sunday at 12 p.m. and at 1:30 the Samuel Chapel singers will sing. This is being sponsored by the Trustees.

Are you concerned about such issues as drinking and driving, the nuclear arms race, the N.C. food tax, the rising crime rate and the high cost of incarceration?

You can do something to influence the outcome of these and other important issues to be debated in the current N.C. legislative session.

Sister Evelyn Mattern, Program Associate and lobbyist for the N.C. Council of Churches, will conduct a mini-workshop on Influencing the Legislative Process: Current Issues of Concern.

The session which will be held on Thursday, February 17th from 12:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the Hertford United Methodist Church, is being sponsored by the Perquimans County Ministerial Association. Registration fee will be \$2. For more information, call 426-7717.

## NCNB names area executive

James E. (Jim) Mims has been named eastern area executive for NCNB National Bank and given overall responsibility for banking activities in several eastern North Carolina communities, according to Robert L. Kirby, NCNB eastern region executive.

Previously city executive for NCNB in Raleigh, Mims' new assignment is a result of NCNB's recent merger with Bank of North Carolina.

Mims' responsibilities include Greenville, Henderson, Kinston, Murfreesboro, Southern Pines, Tarboro, Washington, Wilson and Woodland, plus these communities previously served by Bank of North Carolina: Benson, Dunn, Edenton, Farmville, Hertford, Hobbsville, Lillington and Seaboard.

A senior vice president, Mims joined NCNB in 1967 and has served as commercial loan officer and metropolitan area director in Greensboro, city and central area executive in Eden and senior corporate lending officer in Charlotte.

Mims earned a bachelor of arts degree in economics from Guilford College in 1956.

WINTERGREEN SKIING MARCH 4-6	NEW YORK CITY MARCH 25	CHERRY BLOSSOM WASHINGTON, D.C. APRIL 15-17	ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. APRIL 27-29
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**Burlington Shopping Spree  
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For Further Information Contact:  
**Velvet & Lois Jennings 338-2000**

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It is a blessing to know that those around you care. This has not been the easiest time in our lives but you have helped and lifted us up more than you will ever know.

During Clinton's and Beth's illness and hospitalizations, your prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, food, gifts and all other acts of kindness have meant so much to us and are most appreciated. We want to say thank you from the bottom of our heart and pray that God will bless you.

Clinton, Catherine  
and Lyn Winslow  
Steve and Beth Sanders

I would like to thank each and every one of you for cards, flowers and all other acts of kindness extended me while in Chowan Hospital.

Annice Peckham

I would like to thank all those who remembered me with cards, flowers, food, visits and other acts of kindness both during my hospitalization and since my return home.

I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and your prayers.

Hannah F. Holmes

We would like to thank the Bethel Fire Department for giving us the benefit supper last summer. It's really nice to know that others care.

We appreciate it very much.

Thanks,  
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Proctor

The Family of Ward Hunter would like to thank each of you for your many prayers, visits, cards, flowers, food and all other acts of kindness to us in our time of bereavement.

A special thanks to the Perquimans County Rescue Squad members for your help.

May God bless each of you for your kindness.

Mrs. Ward Hunter  
Lizzie Ward Godfrey  
Jean Chappell  
Irene Meads

For Your Information

Dear friends,

Several books now report on hundreds of people who have had near death experiences that suggest that the psche or soul does function independently of the body. Psychiatrist E. Kubler Ross, who has spent a lifetime as a counselor to the dying, is certain of a benign life after death. She says, "The more I go into this after-death research, the more some scientists want to shred me to pieces—but I already have more than enough evidence that there is an afterlife."

Respectfully,  
*Marian Sue Dell*

Newsweek - May 1, '78  
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