

fellow-feeling for the poor, He does not denounce the rich, nor does the evangelist Luke. The unity of the chapter is the thought of the responsibilities of wealth. Its parables are peculiar to Luke.

I. The Steward's Conduct, 1-8.

V. 1. *Also*; connecting it with the foregoing as a part of Christ's teaching. *Disciples*. Not merely the Twelve, but the large number of His followers, some of whom were probably rich. *A certain rich man*. A part of the figure of the parable. It is useless to ask who he was. *A steward*; one who had charge of his property. In Palestine, riches consisted chiefly of lands and herds of cattle or flocks of sheep. The steward would let the land to small farmers and would have full power to act as he chose. Often a steward was a superior slave, but probably not here. *Was accused unto him*. The charge was true, though the idea is conveyed that the accusation was made behind the steward's back. *That he had wasted*. "Whether by fraud or extravagant living is not indicated. The one is apt to lead to the other."

V. 2. *How is it?* "What is this that I heard?" (Rev. Ver.); the sharp, stern question of one who had made up his mind. *Give an account*; on the account of money spent and all the bills and documents which are to be now passed over into other hands. *No longer steward*. The master had examined the charges and discovered the dishonesty. The steward had been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

V. 3. *Said within himself, what shall I do?* There is no sign of true sorrow or repentance. We see the sharper trying to make the best of a fate that he must have expected sooner or later. *Taketh away*. It is not gone until the account has been rendered and so he has time to make some provision. *I have not strength to dig* (Rev. Ver.). As a land steward he would not have a trade; and now that he is about to be ejected from his post of trust, the only work he thinks of is that of a day-laborer. *To beg I am ashamed*. It would be a severe blow to his pride for the former steward to stoop to begging.

V. 4. *I am resolved what to do*. The only thing open for him is to fall back on the help of his friends, and so he must get as many as possible. *They may receive me*. The steward is thinking aloud and has in mind people whom we do not meet till the next verse. He will find refuge with them, even if it be but temporarily.

V. 5. *Del...s*; the men who rented the land and paid for it in kind. The steward would have given each a memorandum—and perhaps his account was kept partly in his own head, so that he could change it at will, and when they showed their bills to the next steward, none would be the wiser. *How much owest thou?* Perhaps just an unnecessary question such as one often opens a conversation with. Or he may have wished to impress on them what they owed to him.

V. 6. *An hundred measures of oil*. The "bath" was a liquid measure of about 8½ gallons. Probably 100 measures of oil would be worth nearly \$450. *Sit down quickly*. His master is justly angry. The case is urgent; there is no time to be lost. *Write down fifty*. Hebrew numerals were letters of the alphabet, and a very slight change would turn 100 into 50 or 80.

V. 7. *An hundred measures of wheat*. The "homer" was a Hebrew measure equal to about 10 of our bushels. The value of "an hundred measures" of wheat would be between \$500 and \$600. Olive oil and wheat were the two great commodities of Palestine.

V. 8. *His Lord commended* (Rev. Ver.). He may have said with a bitter smile—"What a clever knave!" Not that he gave him high praise as a man. *Wisely*; prudently for himself, cleverly. *For*. Jesus now proceeds to apply the parable. *The children of this world* is the Hebrew way of saying "worldly people," people to whom this world and its concerns are the all in all. *Wiser*. They have more of worldly prudence. Our Lord does not commend the unjust steward for his iniquity, but points out how shrewdly he cared for his own interests. *The children of light*; those who belong to the eternal kingdom of light, in