

of future reward. This lesson is taught in the verses that follow the parable of the Unjust Steward. They are as follows: "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. If, therefore, ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?" This parable has often caused great perplexity because the point of these verses has been missed. They are a corrective of the parable, and are as necessary as its application. Christ commended the prudence of the Unjust Steward, and that only. Here He warns us against his unfaithfulness, and lays down faithfulness in earthly things as an indispensable condition of spiritual wealth.

The same truth is enforced in the Parables of the pounds in Luke, and talents in Matthew. In the parable of the talents, five talents are given to one servant, and two to another. The one who out of two talents made two more is as warmly commended, and enters into the same joy as the one who out of five made five. The lesson is that unequal gifts with equal diligence will be equally rewarded. In the parable of the pounds the same amount is given to each servant. The one who out of one pound made ten receives far higher praise and double the reward of him who out of one made five. The lesson is that equal gifts and unequal diligence will be unequally rewarded. The diligence or faithfulness is the determining factor in both cases. And such it is in our use of all our earthly gifts and privileges.

I do not know of any quality that is more necessary in the work of men to-day than such fidelity as these passages demand. First, it means that gain is never to be made by wrong. It matters not whether the wrong be legalized or not, if it be contrary to the law of love, it can bring nothing but a curse.

Next, in striving toward success men are to be strictly faithful to all their obligations. Workers who will be steady and energetic in their employers' service are sought for on all