

Lutheran Confessions

“43] ... Those who have employed all their care and diligence to accumulate great possessions and wealth, what have they finally attained? You will find that they have wasted their toil and labor, or even though they have amassed great treasures, they have been dispersed and scattered, so that they themselves have never found happiness in their wealth, and afterwards it never reached the third generation” (LC I 43).

“Now, since all that we possess, and, moreover, whatever, in addition, is in heaven and upon the earth, is daily given, preserved, and kept for us by God, it is readily inferred and concluded that it is our duty to love, praise, and thank Him for it without ceasing, and, in short, **to serve Him with all these things, as He demands and has enjoined in the Ten Commandments....**

We ought, therefore, daily to study this article, impress it upon our mind, and to remember it in all that meets our eyes, and in all good that falls to our lot, and wherever we escape from calamity or danger, that it is God who gives and does all these things, that therein we sense and see His Fatherly heart and his transcendent love toward us. Thereby the heart would be warmed and kindled to be thankful, **and to employ all such good things to the honor and praise of God.**

Thus we have most briefly presented the meaning of this {third} article, as much as is at first necessary for the most simple to learn, both as to what we have and receive from God, and what we owe in return, which is a most excellent knowledge, but a far greater treasure. For here we see how the Father has given Himself to us, together with all creatures, and has most richly provided for us in this life, besides that He has overwhelmed us with **unspeakable, eternal treasures by His Son and the Holy Ghost**, as we shall hear” (Large Catechism, Apostles’ Creed, 19, 23-24).

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight’s Scripture to your life.

Prayer

Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN** (*Collect for Trinity 9*)

Word of God: St. Luke 16:1-13 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

1. The manager is accused of wasting his possessions. When confronted, does he deny the accusation?
2. What do we learn about the rich man when he doesn’t throw the manager in jail for mismanagement?
3. Though digging and begging are possible options for the fired manager, why doesn’t he consider them?
4. What is the manager’s plan now that he will soon be jobless?
5. What do the people think of the Master whose manager forgave their outstanding debt? What do they think of the manager?
6. What choice does the manager have after receiving the “amended” books?
 - A. deny the changes and anger the affected debtors. Would the debtors then welcome him into their houses?
 - B. Simply accept the changes and the good will. How did the manager know the master would choose this option?
7. Though dishonest, How is the man shrewd?
8. Who are the people of light?
9. How are they to be shrewd (Mt 22:37-40)?
10. What is worldly wealth? (See First Article, Creed and Fourth Petition, Lord’s Prayer) How should it be used? (Mt 6:19-21)
11. Do not give what is holy to the dogs?
12. You cannot serve both God and Money?
13. What are true treasures?

6:30 PM “Learn by Heart”

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn “**Oh, Blest the House, Whate’er Befall**” ASBH #47
7th & 8th Commandments & meaning
St. Luke 16:9

7:00 PM “Catechesis”

+ Opening Verses
“O Lord, open my lips...” p.224

+ Ascription of Praise
“Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia.” p.225

Reading
St. Luke 16:1-13 (*back*)

Hymn
“**Oh, Blest the House, Whate’er Befall**”
(Augustana Service #47, insert)

Catechesis on... (*back*)
St. Luke 16:1-13
Liturgy
Catechism

+ The Suffrages insert
from ASBH Prayer Office Supplement
Kyrie
Lord’s Prayer
Versicles
Psalm 130 or Psalm 51
Versicles
Collects
Collect for Peace
Benedicamus
Benediction
R. AMEN

Catechesis on St. Luke 16:1-13

¹ He also said to His disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. ² “So he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.’ ³ “Then the steward said within himself, ‘What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ ‘I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵ “So he called every one of his master’s debtors to *him*, and said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ “And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ So he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷ “Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ So he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸ “So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. ⁹ “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. ¹⁰ “He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much. ¹¹ “Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? ¹² “And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (NKJV)

Godly Wisdom

⁹] For, first, although man’s reason or natural intellect indeed has still **a dim spark of the knowledge that there is a God, as also of the doctrine of the Law**, Rom. 1, 19ff, yet it is so ignorant, blind, and perverted that when even the most ingenious and learned men upon earth read or hear the Gospel of the Son of God and **the promise of eternal salvation, they cannot from their own powers perceive, apprehend,**

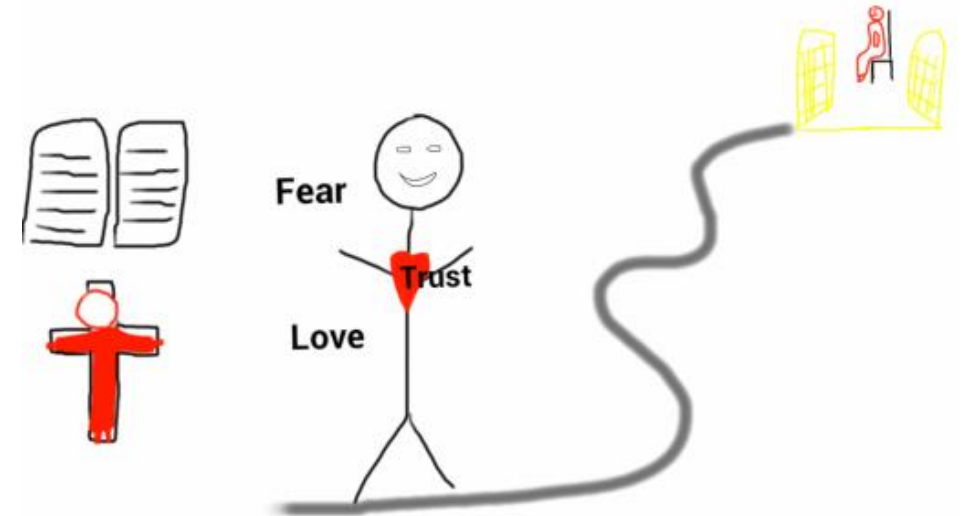
understand, or believe and regard it as true, but the more diligence and earnestness they employ, wishing to comprehend these spiritual things with their reason, the less they understand or believe, and before they become enlightened and are taught by the Holy Ghost, they regard all this only as foolishness or fictions.... **10]** ...Accordingly, the Scriptures flatly call **natural man in spiritual and divine things darkness.... 11]** Now, just as a man who is physically dead cannot of his own powers prepare or adapt himself to obtain temporal life again, so **the man who is spiritually dead in sins cannot of his own strength adapt or apply himself to the acquisition of spiritual and heavenly righteousness and life**, unless he is delivered and quickened by the Son of God from the death of sin....

14] To all godly Christians who feel and experience in their hearts a small spark or longing for divine grace and eternal salvation this precious passage is very comforting; for they know that **God has kindled in their hearts this beginning of true godliness, and that He will further strengthen and help them in their great weakness to persevere in true faith unto the end.**

15] Here belong also all **the prayers of the saints** in which they pray that they may be taught, enlightened, and sanctified by God, and by this very act declare that they cannot obtain those things which they ask of God from their own natural powers; ...These prayers and passages concerning our ignorance and inability have been written for us, not for the purpose of rendering us idle and remiss in reading, hearing, and meditating upon God’s Word, but, first, that we **should thank God from the heart that by His Son He has delivered us from the darkness of ignorance and the captivity of sin and death, and through Baptism and the Holy Ghost regenerated and illumined us.**

16] And after God through the Holy Ghost in Baptism has kindled and effected a beginning of the true knowledge of God and faith, **we should pray Him without ceasing that through the same spirit and His grace, by means of the daily exercise of reading and practicing God’s Word**, He would preserve in us faith and His heavenly gifts, strengthen us from day to day, and keep us to the end. For unless God Himself be our schoolmaster, we can study and learn nothing that is acceptable to Him and salutary to ourselves and others” (FC SD II 10-16).

Catechesis On St. Luke 16:1-13



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