Jesus and the Pharisees, on Wealth

#  Luke 16:14-18

Introduction: This interlude in the three parables on wealth, deals with the heart issues of the Pharisees. Their love of money, and adherence to their traditions.

1. **Beware self-centered theology:** Lk 16: 14&15 In these three parables (The prodigal son, The unjust steward, The rich man and Lazarus), wealth and its proper use is a major part of the parable. Remember these are for the disciples benefit not the crowd. The Pharisees “scoffed” at Jesus just like they will at the cross. They justify themselves in the sight of men. 1 Samuel 16:7. This is a danger we face as Christians today as Paul warned against a *haughty mind* in Romans 12:16. Paul railed against man pleasing, Gal. 1:9-10. “God knows your hearts.” The Pharisees and Sadducees do not value what God values. What they highly esteem is *detestable* in God’s sight. This word is used in the gospels in relation to the Anti-Christ and in Revelation 17:4&5 and 21:27.
2. **Law and the Prophets supreme:** Lk 16:16-17 Matthew 11:12-15 is the parallel and there we see the phrase “ears to hear let him hear.” This phrase is used toward believers as they are the only ones who have ears to hear. Revelation 2&3 the seven churches. Even in Revelation 13 there are believers who witness the rise of the beast in verse 9. The Law and the prophets prepared them for John who prepared them for Jesus who offered them the kingdom. Scripture 2 Tim. 3:16&17.
3. **Easy Divorce:** Lk 16:18 The Pharisees made many opportunities for divorce.