

Being Faithful In That Which Is Least

By Elder David Pyles

It is hard to imagine anyone less disposed to materialism than the Lord Jesus Christ. He once said, *“Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth,”* (Lk 12:15). By this He meant that a man's happiness has little if anything to do with his material possessions. Many people have had to learn this hard lesson. In His famous parable of the sower (Mt 13:3-23), Jesus spoke of those overtaken by the *“deceitfulness of riches.”* These are people who are deceived into thinking that more money produces more happiness. In these statements and others, Jesus showed his disregard for material possessions. Given this fact about Him, it is remarkable that He elsewhere placed enormous importance on money in another respect. In particular He said, *“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,”* (Lk 16:10).

By His words *“that which is least,”* the Lord meant money or other material things. This is made clear by the context, especially the next verse: *“If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”* The word “mammon” means money or riches. So the Lord here said that if a man will not prove dependable in financial matters, then He will not prove dependable in anything else. If he will not pay his bills, repay his loans or keep his other business commitments, then he will also prove undependable as a husband, employee, church member, citizen, etc. Experience has proven this over and again. It is very important that we be financially honest and dependable. The Lord surely will not bless those who are otherwise. As Jesus Himself warned, *“If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”*