



Sept. 22, 2019 Lk. 16: 1-13 & Amos 8:4-7

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#### ENTERING THE SCENE:

The old saying that those who have the gold make the rules. I wonder with the climate situation we are now in if that holds true anymore. Mother Nature does not care who has the gold and she will make the rules from here on in. The days of putting our thumbs on the scales seem to be waning. Choices have consequences. The old method of making unholy alliances has never worked. Just look back at what the prophets like Amos and Jeremiah preached. When the wealthy are building bunkers to ward off threats to their hoarded wealth, can they breathe the air and drink the water left behind by those of us who only looked to the short term goals? Now is the time to look within to see how trustworthy we are in serving the God we say we believe in. What/who is our "master"?

#### Luke 16:1-13

1 Jesus told his disciples: "There was a **rich man** whose **manager** was accused of **wasting** his possessions. 2 So he called him in and asked

him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an **account** of your **management**, because you cannot be **manager** any longer.' 3 The **manager** said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My **master** is **taking away** my **job**. I'm not **strong** enough to **dig**, and I'm **ashamed** to **beg**-- 4 I know what I'll do so that, when I **lose** my **job** here, people will **welcome** me into their **houses**.' 5 So he called in each one of his **master's debtors**. He asked the first, 'How much do you **owe** my **master**?' 6 **Eight hundred gallons** of olive oil,' he replied. "The **manager** told him, 'Take your **bill**, sit down **quickly**, and make it **four hundred**.' 7 Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you **owe**?' "A **thousand bushels** of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your **bill** and make it **eight hundred**.' 8 The **master commended** the **dishonest manager** because he had acted **shrewdly**. For the **people of this world** are more **shrewd** in dealing with their own kind than are the **people of the light**. 9 I tell you, use **worldly wealth** to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be **welcomed** into **eternal dwellings**. 10 Whoever can be **trusted** with very **little** can also be **trusted** with **much**, and whoever is **dishonest** with very **little** will also be **dishonest** with **much**. 11 So if you have not been **trustworthy** in handling **worldly wealth**, who will trust you with **true riches**? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's **property**, who will give you **property** of your own? 13 No **servant** can **serve** two **masters**. Either he will **hate** the one and **love** the other, or he will be **devoted** to the one and **despise** the other. You cannot **serve** both **God** and **Money**."

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Could our families, friends, neighbors testify to who is my master? How?

**PRAYER:** Master story teller, you continue to stretch me beyond my comfort level. You know full well that I have my 'thumb' on the scale when I use my privilege to get what I want. Those like the ones in this story have to take what they get also go along with the 'way things go' in order to survive. We collude with each other in order to get along. Help me to recognize when I choose only things that benefit me at the expense others and betray my truth. Amen.