***Luke 16:10-12 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. 11Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?***

Too often in this world, we equate Faithfulness with being recogized. We may not voice it, but too often Faithfulness is only Faithfulness as long as everyone knows... But Jesus commands otherwise. We are to be Faithful when the Master is present and when He is away. Jesus is saying, “Don’t make the mistake of thinking I’m unaware – I look upon the Truth of the heart.” He’s giving us a very clear lesson here about Faithfulness to God, not to the world; Faithfulness to our eternal purpose, not our temporary comfort. When we encounter Jesus, we are Self sitting on the throne of a kingdom we’ve made. We are the king of our life, the lord of our world. Then, Jesus… surrender to Jesus means surrender of self. We become the faithful steward of a life now belonging to Him. We were king, now He is. We were lord, now He is. King of kings, Lord of lords, every knee shall bow, every tongue confess.

Verse 10 says - *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.*Too many hear this to say – if a man is faithful in a little pile of money, he will also be faithful is a big pile of money. Do we hear the greed, the pride, the worldliness, the sin in that thought alone? This verse refers to our stewardship, motivated, enlivened by the Gracious Gift of God through Jesus His Son. Jesus is saying – a Christ surrendered servant is wise and faithful in all parts of his or her walk, in times of little and in times of much. There is humility here. The servant willing to yield to God in the unseen, the unheralded, the unappreciated, the unattended will yield to God in the greater ministries. The servant too mighty to yield in the unseen, the unheralded, the unappreciated, the unattended will never yield to God in the greater calling. He who is unjust, dishonestly stewarding what God has entrusted, in what is least will also be unjust in what is much.

Verse 11 *Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?*Now we find out what is least in God’s eyes!! We find out what is not true riches in the eyes of the Master. Mammon! Too often, people equate mammon with money, and it certainly can be thought of as money, or wealth, but the original word meant something more akin to worldly confidence. Money, possessions, position, status, education, anything that we place our confidence in instead of God can be considered unrighteous mammon! If I’ve not been faithful to surrender what creates an unrighteous confidence in my life, to lay it all upon the altar and surrender it to God and trust Him to love and care for me, how can I be trusted with the true riches of a servant of the Most High? I can’t be. If my greed, my fear, my desires for this world drive my ministry, drive my witness, I will never have the right heart for the true purposes of God. True richness in this life is a rich relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. True richness is never having to worry again about what I will wear, where I will live, how I will eat. True richness is knowing that I am protected and loved and valued, no matter what comes next, no matter how high gas goes, no matter what inflation is doing, no matter who sits in the White House. I want, I need, I beg to be trusted with the True Riches of relationship with the King!

Verse 12 *And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?* Many have lost this thought today. It saddens me to see people celebrating dishonesty. I’ll see people posting about cheating, lying, and stealing, as though it’s something to be proud of… it’s not. I want to be that man that, if you leave $1 million dollars cash lying in my front yard, when you return at some time in the future, all you’ll find is a little shelter built over it to keep it dry. Integrity counts. Faithfulness counts. Loyalty counts. Truthfulness counts. Dedication to serving others counts. We cannot be Faithful to Jesus while being unfaithful in the world. Right relationship with God requires application to all God created. Colossians 3:17 *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.* When we are surrendered, we do all in word or deed to glorify God, in the name of Jesus. Appreciation, admiration, awareness of man no longer matters. The glory of God and a witness for Jesus is all that matters.

This week, may we evaluate our Faithfulness to God, to our brothers and sisters in Christ, to ministry. Unfaithfulness is unfaithfulness no matter what excuse we flag it with, no matter the flavor of justification we add. Covering poison with honey helps the poison go down, but makes it no less poison. May we be faithful in the little and the large as though God Himself is watching each and every moment… because, my brethren, the Truth of the matter is, God is watching each and every moment.