

## Priorities

Arthur Barry

You cannot serve two masters. That is plain enough, isn't it? The parable in Luke 16:1-13 which leads up to that statement, however, has troubled many, because it talks about a corrupt steward who is applauded by his master for basically feathering his own bed. At the very least we can see that this steward had established his priority and was sticking to it. When threatened with dismissal he made a decision about what he was going to do. (Luke 16:4) He was not going to be working for anyone else; he was not going to dig or beg (v 3). It is plain that even when he was supposed to be looking after his master's household his priority was to look after himself. His priority would not change; he would continue to look after himself.

It is a principle of life that entices every one of us. If you really want something badly enough, you can get it if you set your mind to it. On that basis, then, each one of us is doing what we have set our minds to do. If I really want to be a millionaire, and am willing to devote myself to that cause, there is nothing to stop me except my own lack of ambition in that regard. I am not a millionaire. Therefore, that is not my priority. But what am I? What is my priority? What have I set my mind to? As a Christian I am supposed to have answered that question. Like this steward I should be able to say confidently, "I know what I will do..."

This steward's priority meant that he needed to ingratiate himself with those who were his master's debtors. Jesus said that his master commended him for this (v 8) but He also adds the caveat that "the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light." So how are the people of the light to act? Jesus goes on to say that we are to use worldly wealth to gain friends so that when it is gone, we will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. (v 9) How do we get from *worldly* wealth to *eternal* dwellings? It has to do with making friends. Are these *worldly* friends or are they *heavenly* friends? Based on Jesus' comparison between people of this world and people of the light and how they each deal with their *own kind*, I have to believe these friends are my *own kind*. And that means brothers and sisters in Christ. And that means *heavenly* friends. To put our church family first is consistent with the teachings of the New Testament.

*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.* (Galatians 6:10)

There is another important distinction that needs to be made between this *earthly* steward and us *heavenly* stewards.

He was being fired.

He was being fired because his priority was his own financial well-being. We are those who willingly serve our master and not worldly wealth. Ironically, we take a page out of the worldly steward's book by gaining more heavenly friends from out of the world. We do it by telling them that our master wants to cancel all their debts. I believe my master will be pleased with me if I do that and I will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. Therefore, I should be able to say, with confidence... "I know what I will do!"



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840  
(570) 886-1838  
Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

August 6, 2023

**All the Churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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### WELCOME!

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

**Today's Sermon: Is it Worth Your While?**

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 24:1-5**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm August 9, on Zoom, Arthur will be continuing a study from G.R.O.W. We will be in the 4th chapter on W (work).
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – August 20.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, August 8. Amos pt.4
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing** – October 29, at Wellsboro.
- ❖ **Men's Prayer Breakfast- August 12 @ Wellsboro.** Arthur will lead the devotional...Yearning.



**The men's prayer breakfast will begin at 9am on Saturday. The title of Arthur's devotional is Yearning, and the men of the church in Wellsboro will be the hosts of this event.**

## PRAYERS

- **Thanks for success with the House to House** and Heart to Heart outreach effort. Pray for continued response.
- **Kathy Farrell** has asked for prayers as she has been suffering from leukemia for the last 13 years. She also asked for prayers for her sister Cheryl who is suffering from dementia.
- **Darlene** has been suffering from severe inflammation of the esophagus. On 9/18 she will have an upper endoscopy with

Bravo chip to see what is wrong. Pray that she can find the correct medicine to remedy this.

- Darlene has asked for prayers for her **Aunt Nancy**, Jackie's sister, who is dealing with some health issues.
- **Steve Burger's wife, Judy**, has been afflicted with A-fib since she was ill with Lyme disease a few weeks ago. She was recently treated in hospital and had an ablation. She is home now recovering. Pray that all is well.
- **Arthur's sister Sue Barry has been declared in remission from stage 4 breast cancer! Praise the Lord!** However, she was taken in hospital on Friday for a transfusion because the chemo had made her hemoglobin dangerously low. Pray that she can remain cancer free and build up her red blood cells.
- **Paul Cowles is slowly getting better from the stomach issues that made him feel sick and lose weight.** Pray that he continues to recover from this illness.
- **The minister at the South Valley Church of Christ in Las Vegas** has promised to contact two churches that are actually closer to where **our brother Jerry Lowe** lives in a quest to help him establish contact and perhaps get a ride to worship. He said if that doesn't help, he will arrange for a ride to South Valley. This truly is an answer to prayer.

### Pray for these people:

- **Bob** (Steve Burger's brother-in-law)- lung and rectal cancers
- **Pat Guthrie**- lung cancer, stage 4 chemo treatment
- **Mike Walls**, frontal lobe dementia.
- **Jim Sexton**, esophageal cancer, back on chemo.
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April**, terminal cancer, salvation
- **Brian**, who was injured by a falling tree and is now in rehab near Albany, NY.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.