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Abstract

The objective of the present thesis is the interpretation of the New Testament passage from the Gospel of Luke regarding the dishonest steward (Luke 16:1-8a) and accompanying statements (Luke 16:8b-13). In the thesis, the fundamental issues of the passage are identified, and solutions are proposed. Synchronic and diachronic interpretation methods, in conjunction with the use of secondary sources, are used to analyse the pericope.

The section contains two fundamental problems concerning the boundaries of the text and the interpretation of the statement in verse 8. It is the conclusion of this paper that, based on the methods employed, the passage is most likely a compilation. However, within the context of its present arrangement, it should be interpreted within the range of verses 1-13.

The paper offers some suggestions from the exegesis of the New Testament on how to interpret verse 8: (1) The Lord who praises the steward is Jesus Christ; (2) the amount by which the bond was reduced was illegal interest; (3) the reduced amounts were to be the steward's commission, which he deprived himself of in order to secure the favour of the debtors in the future; (4) the parable is a kind of one-act comedy. A detailed analysis and evaluation of these proposals is provided in the thesis.

Keywords

Gospel of Luke, parable, mammon, faithfulness, sons of light