



Daily Verse and Comment

[Luke 16:14-18](#)

(14) And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. (15) And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. (16) The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. (17) And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail. (18) Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

King James Version

[Jesus](#) is again confronting the Pharisees. He had just given them the [Parable of the Unjust Steward](#), which speaks about money; thus, this little section is introduced with the Pharisees described as being covetous. Does [covetousness](#) have anything to do with the commands of [God](#)? How about the [tenth commandment](#)?

The Pharisees were offended. Even though Jesus Himself did not say anything directly about covetousness, they were perceptive enough to pick up the drift of His parable. They justified their attitude of covetousness before men who would accept their rationalizations, but as Jesus says in verse 15, they could not escape the scrutiny of God, who judges the heart!

Jesus says that people were pressing into the [Kingdom of God](#). Why? Because Jesus was preaching it, and people were believing the message and repenting. How deeply they believed it is not the point at this time. Crowds were following Jesus, and this enters into His explanation. Jesus warns the Pharisees that, just because people were pressing into the Kingdom of God due to Jesus' preaching of [the gospel](#), they themselves would not pass

blithely under the bar of judgment because God would judge them according to the standards given in His law.

Where are those standards given? In the [Old Testament](#)! Thus, He says that it is easier for heaven to pass away than for one tittle of the law to pass. Their covetousness would be judged by what was written in the Old Testament. In other words, He could perceive that they were quite sensitive to the standards written in the Old Testament.

To illustrate, He gives an additional principle that He pulls from the Pentateuch, from [Genesis 2:24](#): "Whosoever puts away his wife, and marries another. . . ." Why does He bring that in? Because the Pharisees in actuality had a very cavalier attitude toward the [law of God](#), especially in the area of marriage and divorce. They just brushed it off.

The point is this: Our Savior did not have a cavalier attitude towards the Old Testament. He had every opportunity here to tell these people, "A New Covenant is coming, so do not worry about your sins. We are just going to overlook them." But He did not. He upheld the law and judgment according to it.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Covenants, Grace, and Law \(Part Sixteen\)](#)



Related Topics:

[Covetousness](#)

[God's Law](#)

[Kingdom of God](#)

[Old Testament](#)

[Parable of the Unjust Steward](#)

[Pharisees](#)

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