

Intro:

Main Point of Text: God's litmus test of a righteous society is whether people use their money honestly in the marketplace.

Luke 16:11-13.

Sermon Point: *Be Righteous Representatives in the Marketplace.*

Move 1: Don't represent yourselves deceitfully while doing business.

Deut. 25:13-14: *Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small.* One practice: carrying a bag with one weight for buying, another for selling. Vs. 35: "unrighteous (injustice) judgment" in measuring or weighing: subtle deception selling, buying, or trading. Israel's later identity!: Hosea 12:7. Dishonest business is stealing and oppressive. Amos 8:4-7; Micah 6:10-13. WLC Q&A 142. Business is always personal, relational, contractual. Prov. 20:10; Prov. 20:23; Prov. 11:1: *A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.*

Move 2: Represent yourselves honestly while doing business.

But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Deut. 25:15) Vs. 36a: honest business practices. Emphasis by repetition on "just" (righteous); in contrast to "unrighteous" (injustice) in vs. 35. Fair, honest selling and buying. Same consistent standards. *Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath.* Ezek. 45:10. *A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work.* (Prov. 16:11) 2 Cor. 8:21; Ps. 15:4-5. Honesty is the best/only policy. WLC 141. Micah 6:8.

Move 3: You are representatives of God in how you do business.

Vs. 36b: "brought you out of Egypt": they know what it was like to be shortchanged in life (make bricks with no straw, Ex. 5): their work must not represent Egypt. "I am the LORD your God": Yahweh is His personal covenant keeping name with His friends/Church (Ex. 3:14-15). He is good on His promises, so must be His people. They are going to be God's people in God's Promised Land, so they must be people there who keep their promises. They must reflect God, Who is completely righteous/just (holy). Context is verses 1-2 (1 Pet. 1:13-16), 37: *Live Sacred Lives.* 1 Thess. 4:3-8. Because of Isa. 55:1-3 and Rev. 3:18 ...

Conclusion:

Matthew 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12.

Be Righteous Representatives in the Marketplace.