

**I. Read Luke 16:14-15**

- A. In verse 14, the Pharisees are described as “lovers of money” (NKJV). Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and contrast the Pharisees’ priorities with the words of the Apostle Paul.

Read James 4:3-5 and explain what it means to be a “friend of the world” (NKJV).

How does the James passage apply to the Pharisees?

According to 1 Timothy 6:10, is money or the possession of money evil in itself?

- B. In verse 15, Jesus makes a clear distinction between being justified in God’s eyes and being seen as just by men. How can the two things be different?

Read Matthew 16:21-23 and discuss how what men look upon as being *a good thing* may be contrary to the will of God.

- C. Discuss the difference between man’s idea of success and God’s idea of success.

D. How do we know if we are doing what God wants us to do? (Read Psalm 119:1-2, 9-16, 105.)

If it is true that men's hearts are deceitful, how can we know that we have not deceived ourselves into thinking that we are doing what is pleasing to God but really are only trying to please ourselves? (Read Hebrews 4:11-13.)

E. When reading about the hypocrisy and greed of the Pharisees, what should we always remember that will serve as a warning to us? (Hint: They were knowledgeable in the Old Testament Scriptures and committed to the Jewish religious system.)

F. In the final analysis, there is only one way of being absolutely justified before a perfect, holy, and just God. What is it? (Read Romans 5:8-11.)