

Art of The Parable of the Unjust Steward

1. The Parable of the Unjust Steward from Plenarium

- **Digital Image:**



- **Artist:** Unknown Artist (Augsburg, 15th century)
- **Title:** The Parable of the Unjust Steward from Plenarium, Plate 14 from *Woodcuts from Books of the 15th Century*
- **Interpretation:** This is an early German woodcut, which emphasizes the narrative of the parable in a simple, direct style common to illustrations of the period. Woodcuts were a popular medium for making religious stories accessible to a wider audience, and this image would have served as a visual aid to the biblical text.

2. The Parable of the Unjust Steward (c. 1540)

- **Digital Image:**



- **Artist:** Marinus van Reymerswaele
- **Title:** *The Parable of the Unjust Steward*
- **Interpretation:** This painting by the Dutch Renaissance artist Marinus van Reymerswaele is known for its detailed depiction of the figures and their expressions. The artist portrays the

servant and the master in opulent Renaissance clothing, surrounding them with symbols of wealth like ledgers and chests. The master's expression of "surprise yet delight" and the steward's calculating look highlight the central theme of the parable: the commendation of the steward's shrewdness, not his dishonesty.

3. The Unjust Steward (1514)

- **Digital Image:**



- **Artist:** Hans Schüpfelin
- **Title:** *The Parable of the Unjust Steward*
- **Interpretation:** Another early 16th-century German woodcut, this work by Hans Schüpfelin is an example of Northern Renaissance art. This type of print was used to illustrate biblical texts for broader consumption. The image would have been part of a larger publication, with the stark black and white lines focusing on the interaction between the steward and the debtors as he alters their bills.

4. The Parable of the Unjust Steward (etching, 17th century)

- **Digital Image:**



- **Artist:** Jan Luyken
- **Title:** *Parable of the Unjust Steward*

- **Interpretation:** Created by Dutch printmaker Jan Luyken, this 17th-century etching captures the scene with intricate detail. Luyken's work is part of a tradition of using etchings to illustrate biblical parables. This piece focuses on the moment of the steward's transaction with the debtors, emphasizing the covert nature of his actions as he shrewdly secures his future.

5. The Unjust Steward (1886-96)

- **Digital Image:**



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- **Artist:** James Tissot
- **Title:** *The Unjust Steward* from *The Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ*
- **Interpretation:** Part of a larger series of watercolor paintings, this work by French artist James Tissot offers a 19th-century perspective. Tissot's art is known for its historical and ethnographic accuracy, portraying biblical scenes with a realistic, documentary-like quality. His interpretation of the parable emphasizes the human drama and the setting, presenting the story as if it were a contemporary scene. The focus is on the interpersonal dynamics and the worldly context of the story, reflecting the artistic sensibilities of the late 19th century.