

# Luke 16:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

## Analysis

**Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.** The steward continues his strategy with a second debtor, who owes "a hundred measures" (ἐκατὸν κόρους, hekaton korous) of wheat—approximately 1,000 bushels or 10-12 tons, representing the yield of about 100 acres. This reduction is smaller proportionally—from 100 to 80, a 20% decrease versus the 50% oil reduction—possibly reflecting different commission structures on different commodities or the relative values of oil versus grain. Regardless, both reductions represent substantial debt forgiveness creating grateful beneficiaries.

The pattern is identical: the debtor himself rewrites the contract (γράφον, grapson, "write!"), ensuring legal validity and personal complicity. The steward multiplies his future security by creating multiple grateful debtors who will feel honor-bound to provide hospitality when he's unemployed. Jesus' application (v. 8) commends not the steward's ethics but his shrewdness (φρονίμως, phronimōs, "wisely" or "prudently")—he used earthly resources to secure future benefit. **Believers should show similar wisdom: use money, time, and influence not merely for temporal comfort but to create eternal relationships and rewards** (v. 9: "make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations").

## Historical Context

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Wheat was the primary grain crop in Palestine, more valuable than barley but less expensive than olive oil. The amounts mentioned indicate major agricultural debt—tenant farmers might accumulate such obligations over multiple growing seasons. The 20% reduction on wheat versus 50% on oil may reflect actual first-century lending practices where different commodities had different built-in commission rates. The cultural principle remains: the steward creates beneficiaries who owe him gratitude, ensuring his future security through present generosity (albeit with resources not entirely his own—hence the ethical ambiguity Jesus doesn't directly address).

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does the steward's creation of multiple grateful beneficiaries illustrate the principle of investing in relationships with eternal significance?
2. What does this parable teach about the strategic use of earthly resources for heavenly outcomes rather than merely temporal accumulation?
3. In practical terms, how can Christians use their wealth to 'make friends' who will 'receive them into everlasting habitations' (v. 9)?

## Interlinear Text

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ἔπειτα    ἐτέρῳ    εἶπεν    Σὺ    δὲ    πόσον    ὀφείλεις    ὁ    δὲ  
**Then**    **to another**    **he said**    **thou**    **And**    **how much**    **owest**    <sup>G3588</sup> **And**  
G1899    G2087    G2036    G4771    G1161    G4214    G3784    G1161

εἶπεν    Ἑκατὸν    κόρους    σίτου    καὶ    λέγει    αὐτῷ    Δέξαι  
**he said**    **An hundred**    **measures**    **of wheat**    **And**    **he said**    **unto him**    **Take**  
G2036    G1540    G2884    G4621    G2532    G3004    G846    G1209

σου    τὸ    γράμμα,    καὶ    γράψον    ὀγδοήκοντα  
**thy**    <sup>G3588</sup>    **bill**    **And**    **write**    **fourscore**  
G4675    G1121    G2532    G1125    G3589

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