

Luke Chapter 16

- In Luke 14 Jesus went into the house of a Pharisee to have the Passover meal, he taught and challenged the Pharisee and his guests.
- Then he went out and began to teach the multitudes that were outside with the parable of the prodigal sons.
- Here he continues in the same day to instruct His disciples on finances, material goods, and their proper use.

1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

- This is a full Sabbath day of teaching, this particular instruction is for those who have committed their ways to Jesus.

V: 1-2 The Rich man and the un-just steward.

- Steward: a servant who is given responsibility over another’s goods, a manager who oversees’ another’s goods, property, and financial affairs using them in the best interest and to the profit of the owner.

1 Corinthians 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

- A steward does not own the wealth himself, but he has the privilege of enjoying it and using it for the profit of the owner. When he looks at the riches around him, the steward must remember that they belong to his master, not to him personally.
- This particular steward forgot that he was a steward and began to act as if he were the owner, he became a “prodigal steward” who wasted his master’s wealth.
- The owner has received a report from “the accuser” that the steward had wasted or misused the owner’s goods.
- The un-just steward is then summoned to give an account of his stewardship because he’s about to lose his position.

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- Christian stewardship goes beyond giving God a tithe of our income and then using the remainder as we please.
 - Giving God 10% of our income is just the beginning of our stewardship, we need to remember that God still controls the remaining 90% as well.

- We are called to be stewards of our time:

Ephesians 5:15-17 ¹⁵“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

- As Christians we're called to be good stewards of the gifts and abilities that God has given us:

1 Peter 4:10 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

1. The thief says “what’s yours is mine, I’ll take it!
2. The selfish man says “what’s mine is mine, I’ll keep it!
3. The Christian must say “what’s mine is a gift from God, I’ll share it!

- God’s people are stewards of the Gospel:

1 Thessalonians 2:4 “But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the Gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

V: 3 The steward / servant immediately realizes that he is guilty, there is no defense – he deserves to be punished.

Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

- In a sense he can’t change the past, but he could prepare for the future.
- He says to himself: I can’t do hard labor... I’d be ashamed to beg...
- No amount of labor or begging will get us into the kingdom of heaven.

V: 4 The unjust steward begins to look beyond his present circumstances and seeks to use his present circumstances to secure his future.

V: 5-7 To each of his master’s debtors he negotiates a favorable deal intended to cause them to each to look upon the steward with favor, so that later when he’s in need they will be more likely to help him out.

- Oil & wheat, the elements of the “meat offering”

V: 8 The Lord commended the unjust steward because he had done wisely or shrewdly, not because he was honest, for seizing the opportunity to secure his future.

- Using his present circumstances to secure his future.

- The children of this world are wiser in their generation, in worldly things; they do things and plan better, taking advantage of opportunities, utilizing worldly wisdom to secure their earthly future; wiser by comparison than the children of light who are supposed to be doing all the same things for heavenly purposes, laying up treasures in heaven.
- Too many children of light, believers, are busy laying up treasure here on earth all to no profit in heaven

1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

V: 9 We should make friends for ourselves by means of unrighteous mammon.

- We should use money and other material things in such a way as to win souls for Christ, friendships that will endure throughout eternity.

Matthew 6:19-20 ¹⁹“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”

- There is only one place in the Bible where God says to prove Him, and it’s in the area of giving:

Malachi 3:8, 10 ⁸“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.” – ¹⁰“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

Haggai 1:6, 9 ⁶“Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.” – ⁹“Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? Saith the Lord of Hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.”

- Haggai spoke about the people, he says that they have holes in their pockets, can’t hang onto their money – why is that? Because they’ve neglected the house of God, they’ve fixed up their own house, taken care of themselves, but neglected the things of God, leaving His house desolate.

- They were investing in worldly things, temporal things as opposed to eternal things, and they found themselves destitute.
- Tithing pre-dates the Law, Abraham gave Melchizedek a tithe / 10th long before the Law.
- In all of this, God will not be a debtor to us:

Mark 10:28-30 “²⁸Then Peter began to say unto Him, lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. ²⁹And Jesus answered and said, verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sister, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or land, for My sake, and the gospel's, ³⁰but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

V: 10-12 He that is faithful in that which is least, earthly things, money, is also faithful in many or greater things, the things of the Spirit.

Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the talents, 5,2,1 – 10,4,0

Matthew 25:21 “His lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

- Same story with the 5 & 2 talents.
- 1 Talent: hard man, austere, reaping where ye had not sewn – so I hid it.
- Jesus said “you’ve judged yourself”
- Wicked servant, interest.

Matthew 25:28-29 “²⁸Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. ²⁹For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.”

- Those that are unjust in the little things, earthly things, are also unjust in the greater / spiritual things.
- If we’re not faithful in the smaller things, why should He entrust us with greater things?

V: 13 We can’t have two Gods, there can only be one master passion in our lives:

James 1:8 “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

- If God is our Master, then money will be our servant, and we will use our resources in the will of God.
- If God is not our Master, we will become the servants of money, and money is a cruel master

James 4:4 "... know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God?"

- The issue is one of commitment:

Joshua 24:15 "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

V: 14 The Pharisees who were covetous; literally "who loved money" heard all these things and laughed at Jesus, the scorned and mocked him.

- They discounted the word of God, they rationalized their behavior, and continued blindly down the road to perdition.

V: 15 They may justify themselves before men, but not before God.

Jeremiah 17:10 "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

1 Corinthians 1:29 "That no flesh should glory in His presence."

- They had perfected the outward appearances; but had neglected the issues of the heart.

1 Timothy 3:5 "Having a form of Godliness but denying the power thereof..."

- They greatly valued that which God despises: Mammon, filthy lucre, covetousness – our God is a jealous God, He doesn't like competition.

1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

V: 16 The OT ends with John the Baptist, as opposed to Malachi. With the NT there is a new dispensation, God is dealing with man in a different way – according to Grace.

John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

- OT is the NT concealed, the NT is the OT revealed.
- There is no conflict between the two, they compliment each other.

Matthew 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."

- The Pharisees are operating or at least they think they are operating on the Old system of the Law, but that dispensation has passed, Jesus is on a whole different page.
- The NT is the covenant of “blood” – the blood of Christ.

Matthew 26:28 “For this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

“^{16b}*The kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it:*”

- To press into something means to move with force and specific direction as opposed to drifting aimlessly or casually – the kingdom of God is to be pressed into purposefully – we don’t get to heaven by accident!

Philippians 3:12-14 “¹²Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

V: 17 The Word of God will not fail, it is forever: The entire world would be destroyed before one comma, or period, before one small letter of God’s word failed.

[Joshua on his death bed declared:](#)

Joshua 23:14 “And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.”

1 Peter 1:23 “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

V: 18 Jesus has just described that the Word of God will not fade away, or go away, that God’s Word, like Himself is un-changing – not matter how culture, society, and tradition would seek to alter it.

- Jesus then takes one of the laws, in this case the Law on marriage, and shows them how they were observing it only in an outward sense, but changing it to suit their purposes, how they had misinterpreted and abused it.
- This chapter has a lot to say about our finances and how we use them, and this example from the Law about divorce goes hand in hand with that as so often divorce & financial issues seem to be connected.

- The root issue is how they viewed the word of God either as authoritative or something more casual that could be set aside.
- What is the final authority? The view and interpretations of men, the traditions of men – or would the Word of God itself be that final authority?

Mark 7:6-9 “⁶... well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹And he said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

- The Pharisees were divided into 2 camps regarding divorce.
 1. School of **Shammai** – conservatives.
 2. School of **Hillel** – liberals.
- 1. **Shammai** (conservatives) took **Deuteronomy 24:1-4** literally, could only divorce based on “un-cleanness” which was interpreted narrowly as adultery, which in turn required a written certificate.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 “¹When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. ²And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man’s wife. ³And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; ⁴her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for this is abomination before the Lord: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.”

2. **Hillel** (liberals) took “uncleanness” to also include poor cooking, appearance, or being displeasing in a wide variety of ways, including by comparison. If the husband saw a “more virtuous” woman, his current wife could become unclean by comparison.
- No certificate was required, simply stating “I divorce you” 3 times was sufficient, then show her the door.
 - Divorce then as now was done for many frivolous reasons.
 - The most common reason listed for divorce today is “irreconcilable differences.”

- (Not to trivialize, but...) When my kids were 3, 4, 5, or six they often had “irreconcilable differences” – in other words they weren’t able to reconcile themselves.
- Let me tell you, Grace and I reconciled them, we reconciled them good.
- To this day they are still brothers and sister.
- How were they reconciled, a “higher power” intervened & they submitted.
- As we submit ourselves to God, He will reconcile us to whoever we’re at odds with.
- The distinctions between the Jews and the cultures all around them, just like Christians and secular society today, at least based on the divorce rate, seems to have diminished greatly.
- According to Jesus, the only valid reason for divorce is Adultery / fornication.
- There is much more that can be said and discussed about this subject but we’ll save that for a later time.

V: 19 This does not appear to be a “parable” – but a real literal situation, because one of the persons involved is named, Lazarus.

- An un-named rich man who lived and fared sumptuously or lavishly, extravagantly every day. Un-named so we could fill our name in.

V: 20-21 **Lazarus:** “One whom God Helps” – laid at his gate, meaning he couldn’t walk, full of sores, pathetic, and hungry – wishing only to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table.

- People back then didn’t use cloth napkins, they used bread to wipe the sauce or grease off of their hands, then they would toss it away or to the floor for the dogs to eat.
- The rich man was oblivious to Lazarus’ condition but the dogs weren’t, they ministered to him, licking his sores, they were more aware and kind to Lazarus - the rich man paid no attention to him.
- The dogs were more kind to Lazarus than the rich man.
- There are sins of commission and there are sins of omission:

James 4:17 “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is a sin.”

- Use of resources: Sodom & Gomorrah

Ezekiel 16:49-50 “⁴⁹Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.
⁵⁰And they were haughty, and committed abomination before Me...”

- God takes special note of the plight of the poor:

Proverbs 19:17 “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.”

Matthew 25:31-45 **V: 41-42**

V: 22-23 Both men die, no mention of Lazarus' burial: poor people and beggars were just scooped up and taken to the Hinnom Valley and burned in the fires, cremated.

Death & Hell: Compartments in hell, physical death is not the end!

- Superior Trinity / inferior trinity:

James 2:26 “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.”

Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

1 Corinthians 5:8 “We are confident I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

- Death wasn't the end, the angels carried him to Abraham's bosom – a place of comfort;

Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”

Ephesians 4:8-9 “⁸Wherefore he saith, when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ⁹Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?”

Matthew 16:18 “...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- The rich man died, was buried, but that was not the end for him either, he was transported to hell.
- Hell, Hades, the grave, a place of torment and never ending pain.

Psalm 86:13 “For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell / Sheowl ^(H-7585).” (Pit)

- Abusso, Pit, Tartarus, Gehenna.

2 Peter 2:4 “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell ^(Tartarus), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;”

V: 24 The rich man is being tormented in flames:

Mark 9:47-48 ⁴⁷“And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: ⁴⁸where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

- Some things about hell:
 2. The fire is never quenched.

Isaiah 33:14 “The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings.”

3. The worm / maggot never dies – always feeding. (**Isaiah 66:24**)

Matthew 22:13 “Then said the king to the servants, bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

4. Outer darkness – there is no light.
 5. Eternal torment.
- Notice that the rich man was conscious of his tormented condition – he was aware, his body was rotting in the grave but his soul was aware of the torment.
 - Thus the request for a drop of water because of his tormented condition.

V: 25-26 But Abraham.... Abraham was a rich / wealthy man – the issue isn't having riches, or being wealthy – the issue how we view them, the hold they have upon us and what we do with it.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 ⁹“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

- Abraham explained that he had enjoyed a lifetime of comfort and pleasure in the world, and that Lazarus had suffered; now things were reversed.
- Lazarus had come to a place of comfort and the rich man to a place of torment and that there was a gulf or gap between these two distinct places between which cannot be bridged.

V: 27-28 2nd request: Send Lazarus to my family, my 5 brothers.

- He knows that they are headed in the same direction unless something changes.

V: 29-30 Abraham tells them they have what they need, they have Moses and the prophets, they have the Word of God – if they'll take heed to it.

2 Peter 1:2-3 “²Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³according as His Divine Power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

Revelation 2:7 “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;...”

- The rich man is under the mistaken perception that if one came from the dead to warn them, they would somehow repent.

V: 31 Abraham tells him, if they won't receive the Word of God then they won't believe just because someone is raised from the dead.

John Ch. 11 Raising of Lazarus from the dead. / Jews plotting to kill Jesus.

John 12:9-11 “⁹Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; ¹¹because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.”

- **They have Moses and the Law, the Word of God is sufficient.**

Romans 10:17 “So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”