



TRANSFORMING HOW WE SEE AND USE MONEY

LUKE 16:1-13

Jesus told this story to His disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money. **2** So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.’ **3** The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg. **4** Ah, I know how to ensure that I’ll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.’ **5** So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe him?’ **6** The man replied, ‘I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.’ So the manager told him, ‘Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.’ **7** And how much do you owe my employer?’ he asked the next man. ‘I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,’ was the reply. ‘Here,’ the manager said, ‘take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.’ **8** The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light.’

9 Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home. **10** If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. **11** And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? **12** And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? **13** No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

- “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.” (Romans 12:2)
- **God is interested in transforming the most crucial areas of our lives, including the ways in which we see and use money.**
- **Jesus actually talked more about money than He did about heaven and hell, because money can impact our lives in good and bad ways.**
- **In Luke 16 Jesus was not praising the dishonest manager’s actions, but his shrewdness, and teaching us that we can learn from all kinds of people.**
- **Jesus also told this story in Luke 16 because He knew that many of His followers would not be good “money managers.”**

- Most people in our day and time think that “having money” is really important, but Jesus was teaching that “what we do with our money” is most important.

In The Parable Of The “Shrewd Manager” Jesus Teaches Us:

WHAT TO REFRAIN FROM IN REGARDS TO HANDLING MONEY

Jesus Teaches Us In This Parable To Daily Refrain From:

- **WASTING MONEY**
 - “One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money.” (Luke 16:1)
- **LIVING TO HAVE MONEY**
 - Jesus - “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.” (Luke 16:13)
 - **Our usage of money is determined by who or what is first in our lives.**
- **TRUSTING MONEY FOR OUR SECURITY**
 - “The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg.’” (Luke 16:3)
 - **If we want security in our lives, our lives have to be based on something or someone that can never be taken from us.**
 - “Your money can be gone in a flash, as if it had grown wings and flown away like an eagle.” (Proverbs 23:5 TEV)
- **EXPECTING MONEY TO BRING US SATISFACTION**
 - Solomon - “Whoever loves money will never have enough, and whoever loves wealth will never be satisfied with his income.” (Ecclesiastes 5:10)
 - **We must understand that our “self-worth” is never determined by our net worth.**
 - Jesus - “Guard against all kinds of greed because your life is not measured by how much you own.” (Luke 12:15)

In The Parable Of The “Shrewd Manager” Jesus Teaches Us:

WHAT TO REMEMBER IN REGARDS TO HANDLING MONEY

Jesus Teaches Us In This Parable To Daily Remember That:

- **ALL OUR MONEY BELONGS TO GOD**
 - “There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling HIS affairs.” (Luke 16:1)
 - **We need to constantly remind ourselves that we really don’t own anything - that we are simply managers of what God has entrusted to us for a time.**
 - Understanding that what we have at this time belongs to the Lord helps us not to worry as much as about what we have or don’t have.
 - The question we need to be asking ourselves is “How am I taking care of the body and blessings that God has currently entrusted to me?”
- **GOD USES THE MONEY WE HAVE TO TEST US**
 - God grants us blessings to see how we do with them, and to determine if we can handle even more blessings.
 - The way we handle money demonstrates *What Or Who We Love The Most*.
 - Jesus - “Don’t store up treasure here on earth.... Instead, store your treasures in heaven...for wherever your treasure is, that’s where your heart will be.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

- The way we handle money demonstrates ***What Or Who We Trust In Our Lives.***
 - What we're spending our time and money on demonstrates who or what we trust in the most.
 - *"If you trust in your money, you will fall, but if you trust in God, you'll flourish like a green tree."* (Proverbs 11:28)
- The way we handle money demonstrates ***Whether God Can Trust Us.***
 - Jesus - *"If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?"* (Luke 16:11-12)
- **MONEY IS A TOOL TO BE USED FOR GOD'S PURPOSES**
 - Jesus - *"Use your worldly resources to benefit others . . ."* (Luke 16:9)
 - **We're not to waste or love money, but use it to bless God and others.**
 - **A wise steward of money *Looks Ahead* (Luke 16:3)**
 - Good managers of their resources are thinking about the future.
 - *"The wise man looks ahead. The fool attempts to fool himself and won't face facts."* (Proverbs 14:8 LB)
 - **A wise steward of money *Makes Plans* (Luke 16:4)**
 - We can "make plans" with money by developing and living by a budget, and by investing for the future.
 - *"We should make plans - counting on God to direct us."* (Proverbs 16:9 LB)
 - **A wise steward of money *Acts Quickly* (Luke 16:5-6)**
- **THE BEST USE FOR MONEY IS TO USE IT TO GET PEOPLE TO HEAVEN**
 - *"Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home."* (Luke 16:9)
 - **We can't buy our way into heaven, but we can invest in heaven by using the money we're overseeing to help people get into heaven.**
- **ONE DAY WE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT TO GOD FOR OUR STEWARDSHIP**
 - *"There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'"* (Luke 16:1-2)
 - **One day we're going to be audited about how we've handled the finances and other resources that the Lord has entrusted to us.**
- **IF WE'RE FAITHFUL WITH LITTLE GOD CAN TRUST US WITH MORE**
 - Jesus - *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."* (Luke 16:10 NIV)
 - **If we use our talents, time, influence and resources well, God will give us more of those blessings so we can help even more people in the future.**
 - Jesus - *"To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance."* (Matthew 25:29)
- *"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."* (Romans 12:2)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message that helps me change how I think and what I do with money and other resources in my life?***