**Luke 16 Study**

This chapter is another one of Jesus’ teaching sessions. Its all about how the way you live will influence your life after you die.

**V1-13 is one of the most confusing parables of Jesus.**

**RT France – “This parable is the problem child of parables”**

**Mark Strauss: “This is one of the most difficult parables of all”**

If something Jesus teaches seems strange, it is intentional. It is designed to make us lean in and listen. Jesus uses a guy with bad behavior and uses this as an encouragement to be like him in SOME WAY. Not in every way. But he uses the exaggerated situation to teach one specific lesson.

**Audience:**

In the gospel of Luke we regularly see 4 different audiences.

1. Pharisees & Teachers of the law
2. Tax Collectors & Sinners
3. Crowd
4. The Disciples

Luke keeps switching the audience. Always take note who the teaching is told to because it shapes the meaning of the story. This is told to the Disciples. The pharisees are there in the background, but this is told to the disciples, so it is told to a group of people following Jesus.

**V1Manager =** Steward

The most important thing for a manager/steward is to be faithful. Trustworthy. You also want them aware. You want them to treat the money like it is YOURS not like it is there.

**We are stewards:**

* **Material wealth –** Proverbs 3:9-10
* **Gifts & Talents –** 1 Peter 4:10
* **Time –** Ephesians 5
* **Relationships (**Marriage, parents
* **Church-** 1 Peter 5:2-3; Acts 20:28
* **Worship –** 1 Peter “Holy Priesthood”You bring the offering
* **The Earth –** Genesis 1:28 & 2:15
* **The Gospel –** 1 Thessalonians 2 entrusted with the gospel, 2 Corinthians 4:7, 2 timothy 2:2

What did you do with the stuff I gave you?

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

**V2** in the 1st century this person would be punished not just fired. The owner is giving Grace.

**Eugene Peterson:** “The Manager realizes something that is key to understanding the story: He is fired but not punished. He is not required to pay back what he has embezzled. He is not jailed. In fact, he is not even scolded. This servant has experienced two aspects of his master’s nature. He is a master who expects obedience and acts in judgement on the disobedient servant. He is also a master who shows unusual mercy and generosity even to a dishonest steward.”

**V3** Notice the manager doesn’t argue the charges. He admits guilt. Doesn’t try to prove himself innocent.

**V4** this is his plan. It sounds crazy. But it will set him up well for the future. His plan is friends.

**V5** He knew people were in debt. He went out to earn their approval via stealing from his owner.

**V6** – he was making friends with his master’s debt

**V7** – Really giving a good deal

**V8** He is commended for this?!

**Sons of this world –** This is an insult. Wicked people. Carnally minded. Someone separated from God.

**V9** This is an interesting invitation huh?

Jesus is making us rethink our relationship to money – Money isn’t about ourselves or about the money.

Money is a tool – in this parable, a tool to make friends.

Money can be used for a blessing – usually for yourself. Instead seek to bless others.

**Shrewd – savvy, wise, streetsmart, discerning,**

* **Matthew 7 –** Shrewd man who built his house on the rock
* **Matthew 10:16 –** Sheep amongst wolves
* **Matthew 25 –** Shrewd servants had a lot of oil
* **1 Corinthians 10:15 –** Shrewd people don’t abuse Communion

You cant take the money with you when you die – but you can take friends!

**How can you strategically make friends with your resources?**

Eventually the disciples got here: **Acts 2:42 – shared everything**

**V10** Classic line on how past performance is a good indicator of future performance

**V11** if you haven’t been good with the easy stuff, money, material goods, your day job, why would God entrust you with spiritual wealth, influence, a job of taking care of people – who are eternal?

**The lesson is. The man’s future was empty. Hopeless. So he did something crazy to save his future.**

**What this man had** was an obsession with impacting the people around him. This is the ONE thing we can take from the parable. Everything in this life is going to die. Use what you have left to influence people. Think strategically about the way you share and interact with and influence others around you for the gospel.

**V13** Either try to make a lot of money or try to serve God with it. You cant do both.

**Mammon** – Ancient God connected to the worship of money.

**Money is a terrible boss.** You’ve probably seen people who are always after money. They are slaves to it. Its sad.

**1 timothy 6:10** – the love of money is the root of all evil

Studies have found that men spend 50% of their time thinking about money.

Jesus talked about money 2nd most.

1. Idolatry
2. Money

**Malachi 3**: - they didn’t tithe. Test me on this one.

**Harry Parsons Crowell (Quaker Oats) “I can’t be a preacher, but I can be**[**a good businessman**](https://www.uckg.org/interview-with-chrissy-b/)**. God, if You will let me make money, I will use it in Your service.”**

**V14 You know who doesn’t like talking about money? The pharisees**

The pharisees didn’t like Jesus’ teachings. They scoffed and mocked him. “you must want the money instead” I can imagine them saying. Seeing Jesus as a threat to their flow of money.

**V15** We are backwards compared to God. Especially when it comes to money and what we value.

**V16** The OT was all leading to and pointing to Jesus.

**V17** God’s law will never become void. It wont pass away

**Matthew 5:17-18**

**V18** Reminds us of the Sermon on the Mount

Divorce in order to marry another was common practice. IT was encouraged. Quick divorce and remarriage that they practiced was a huge problem.

**Malachi 3:6** – God hates divorce

Divorce is almost always a sin.

**This story is told for the purpose of making us wonder, what will happen to you after you die?**

Horace in “Odes” said “Carpe diem” seize the day. Don’t trust in tomorrow – pluck the food today.

**V19 Rich man & Lazarus**

A rich man and a poor beggar both die. They experience dramatic reversal in the afterlife. The parable teaches that our attitudes and actions, especially those less fortunate, carry eternal consequences.

In the conclusion, it says that the rich mans brothers wouldn’t respond even if Lazarus rises from the dead to warn them. They wont listen.

The message is that even Jesus’ resurrection wont be enough to convince Israel’s leadership.

**What do we know about the two?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rich Man** | **Lazarus** |
| **Not his name** | **Name** |

Who are not known on earth can be known in heaven. This is a great reversal.

**In torment –** It is conscious torment.

He wants Lazarus to dip his finger and give him some water.

**NT Wright** – says he sees the rich man still sinning here. Still seeing Lazarus as a means to help him, not seeing Lazarus as a person. So the argument that finite sin results in finite punishment isn’t there. Sin doesn’t stop at death. This guy keeps sinning after death.

**Hell** – Saxon word Hellen (to cover. A covered place/hidden place)

* Sheol
* Hades
* Gehenna – place of eternal torment made for Satan and his demons
* Tartaras – the deepest place of hell
* Abuso

The word here is Hades. It’s a Greek word for the Place of the Dead.

Sheol in the Septuagint is translated as Hades – the place of the dead. Both saved and unsaved.

**Hades has 2 sides:**

1. **Paradise**
2. **Torment/hades**

**Ephesians 4:8-9 – Jesus descended**

**1 Peter 3:19**

This passage has led to a lot of the Early Church fathers to believe that this place doesn’t exist anymore that it was only in place before the Cross. This was Jesus closing shop. But some say that he only closed the Paradise part, that the torment part still exists. Until the great white throne.

Who did he preach to?

Most say the demons. He was preaching final judgement, final defeat to the demons in Hell.

Jesus told the Thief on the Cross he would be with him in Paradise. Why didn’t he say Heaven?

**Greek – Paradesos**

Where the jews taught the pious, good peoples souls went. People who believed in God.

**Gehenna – Revelation 20** – after the end judgement

Jesus makes a great reversal, making it clear that wealth has nothing to do with eternal destination.

**Proverbs 22:2** Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all.

It would be better to suffer in this life as a poor homeless man and go to Heaven than to be rich in this life and go to Hell.

**V27** Its so terrible I just want to warn my brothers.

**V30** They wont listen. They are stubborn, closed hearted. God has revealed himself ENOUGH. No excuses for not believing in Jesus other than stubbornness.