



Part 8: Kingdom Business

Key Text: Luke 16:1-15
Sunday, March 10, 2019

Key Thought: The Kingdom of God is made up of people who are faithful in everything God gives them. Everything belongs to God!

We are all Managers (Luke 16: 1-7)

- Manager - *oikonomos* - overseer, one who has charge of the affairs or household, an office of trust and confidence.
- The Greek verb used here, *diaskorpizō*, often translated as "to squander or waste," also appears in 15:13 to describe the activities of the lost son.¹
- Jesus taught often about money and possession. In fact, 16 of his 38 parables in the Gospels focuses on how we handle money and possessions. 288 verses in the Gospels deal directly with subject of finances.

1. Bad Management -Children of the World (Luke 16:8)

- He saw his master's wealth as a means for his own personal enjoyment and advancement.
- Although the manager is a thoroughly bad character, Jesus commends his realism. At least he faces the crisis and takes immediate action. Jesus says that those who reject the love of God had better see what friends they can make with money.²
- Unbelievers are wiser than in things of the world than believers are in eternal things to come.
- God's people are the polar opposite of the world. People get ahead in the world by taking everything they can for themselves. The saints get ahead with God by using what they have to help others.³

¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. 1 Timothy 6:10

How Do We Know We are operating according the world?

- The means to acquire wealth.
- The way in which one desires to use wealth.
- The corrupting influence wealth can often lead people into sin.

2. Good Management – Children of the light (Luke 16:9)

¹⁹“Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. Matthew 6:19-21

- We are called to be just and righteous managers.
- Relationships are the only currency that will matter at the end of your life. Use everything you've got to benefit others and build relationships.
- One practical, shrewd use of wealth (meaning your possessions, not just your currency) involves making friends. Utilize what God has given you. Don't hoard. Use what you have to help those around you and forge friendships

¹ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Lk 16:1). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

² Knowles, A. (2001). [The Bible guide](#) (1st Augsburg books ed., p. 488). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg.

³ Osborne, G. R. (2018). [Luke: Verse by Verse](#). (J. Reimer, E. Ritzema, & D. Thevenaz, Awa Sarah, Eds.) (p. 392). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

What opportunities are we currently missing because we've failed to use our money and our lives wisely in light of eternity?

3. What King of Manger Do You Want to Be? (Luke 16:10-15)

- Faithful with little, then one will be faithful with much. Dishonest with little, then dishonest with much.

"God pays a great deal of attention to the "little things." He numbers the hairs on our heads, cares for the lilies of the field, and is concerned with the fall of a single sparrow (Matt. 10:29). Just as a good mechanic or a good accountant pays attention to the little things, while never forgetting the big picture. What we do with a little time, a little talent, and a little money tells God a lot. It's a major factor as he considers whether to commend and promote us-or reprimand and demote us-in his kingdom corporation." Randy Alcorn

²⁴ *"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. Matthew 6:24*

- Giving is a declaration that everything we own belongs to God.
- Giving is a declaration that we serve God and not Money.
- Giving is a declaration that our trust is truly in the Lord and not in our own finances

⁶ So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving.⁷ Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us^[c]—I want you to excel also in this **gracious act of giving**.⁸ I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.⁹ You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich. 2 Corinthians 8:6-9⁴

One Last Thought: If God is our master, then our (His) wealth is at his disposal.

Bonus Material: John Wesley offered four questions to help decide how to spend money.

- In spending this money, am I acting as if I owned it, or am I acting as the Lord's trustee?
- What Scripture requires me to spend this money in this way?
- Can I offer up this purchase as a sacrifice to the Lord?
- Will God reward me for this expenditure at the resurrection of the just?

⁴ All Scripture is in New Living Translation. (NLT)