

BE SHREWD FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

DECEMBER 5, 2021

WORSHIP

O Come (Let Us Adore),
Blessed Assurance
(My King is Coming),
King of Kings

WELCOME

When was the last time
that you thought or
worried about money
and why?

WORD

LUKE 16:1-4

Now He was also saying to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager was reported to him as squandering his possessions. ² And he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' ³ The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I know what I shall do, so that when I am removed from the management people will welcome me into their homes.'"

(READ LUKE 16:1-13 AHEAD OF TIME)

Did you know that Jesus talked about money in one of every three parables that He taught? Jesus knew that we'll have money issues and that He needed to give us guidance and direction on how to use money, rather than be confused or abused by money. We will look at a parable today that may be the one of the most challenging to understand, but together we will discover and be amazed at how easy it is to uncover what Jesus truly meant and help us apply it in a way that will give God the greatest glory and prepare us for our greatest future.

1. BE WISE (LUKE 16:1-9)

There was this very wealthy man who had a very shrewd manager. Like this servant, we've all been appointed by God to manage God's resources that He has given us. What are some of these resources? The major ones are time, talent, treasure, and truth. These resources don't belong to us, but God holds us responsible for these resources for His purpose.

In the parable, the master called the steward after discovering his dishonesty. This servant has been found out and was faced with the reality that he was now without a job and a home! In those days, the stewards lived in the estate of their masters. This servant knew that he could not do manual labor, probably being advanced in years, and he was also too proud to beg. He began negotiating with his master's debtors by giving them a discount on what they owed the master (**vv.5-7**). He did this so that these people would have a debt of gratitude towards him and would welcome him into their homes once he becomes homeless. The master then praised the unrighteous steward for acting shrewdly! You might picture a shrewd person as crooked or a cheater, but the word "shrewd" has a positive side as it may also mean "one who is wise, prudent, clever, or intelligent". To understand this further we need to understand their culture. During those times, an owner would hire a steward to collect his debts. According to tradition and sources, whatever the steward charged over and above the debt was their payment as sort of a commission for their work. In the parable, the shrewd manager did not cheat his master of his money. He most likely removed the commission that he would have earned for himself! He sacrificed his profit by giving his master what was owed, and by doing this he made the debtors happy, and made friends with them who now owed him a huge amount of favor. He used his present position and made plans to secure his future!

How can we be shrewd for the Kingdom (**Matthew 10:16**)? Jesus used a bad example to teach us a good lesson. He teaches that money gives a false sense of security and self-sufficiency such that we don't depend on God. **Luke 16:9** encourages us to be wise and be generous in investing our wealth in the lives of others by sharing the truth of God's salvation in this life so that in the life to come these people will welcome us into

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eternal dwellings which is God Kingdom. It is not buying people, but when we reach out to others and bless them with our time, our spiritual gifts, treasure, and God's truth, we will make eternal friends by leading their souls to God so that we will see them someday in eternity (**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**). Money is a heart issue, and Jesus wants our heart (**Matthew 6:19-21**).

2. BE FAITHFUL (LUKE 16:10-11)

Some people say, "If I had more, I would give more"; but if you're not faithful with the little you have today, you will not be faithful if you had more tomorrow. It's not about how much you have, it's about who you love. It's about your priorities, is heaven in your heart today? Ask yourself, how faithful and generous am I towards God? When you receive your income, what do you do with it? Do we apportion well for other expenses and give what's leftover to God? The truth is all that we have come from God and is God's. We may think that what we have may be too little and others have more, but God weighs in our attitude in our giving—He looks at our heart (**Luke 16:11; Luke 19:17**).

3. BE LOYAL (LUKE 16:13)

For those of us have worked several jobs at the same time, we are familiar with the challenge of having two bosses whom we must work hard to please. During the time of Jesus, slavery was abundant in the Roman culture, and a slave who was bought cannot have two masters. Their loyalty was dedicated to one. Who owns you today? If you have truly surrendered and committed your life to God and a genuine believer, you must willingly submit to God's ownership. It means that you give your life to Him in service and obedience (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**).

The Bible does not say that one should not be wealthy. Being a slave to money, however, is very dangerous (**1 Timothy 6:10**). Judas, who was one of the twelve disciples, knew Jesus and listened to His teaching, but he loved money more than Jesus. He willingly betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. How much will you sell Jesus to fulfill your temporal pleasures? The love of money is so deceiving because it promises us pleasure and joy, but in the end, we end up with lies, emptiness and dissatisfaction.

When we put God first by serving Him as our King, and by living right by the righteousness of Jesus, God promises to provide for us (**Matthew 6:33**). Ask yourself today, am I living as a faithful steward, shrewdly using the resources God has entrusted to me to invest in the kingdom of heaven for others to receive the truth of the gospel?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Self-Check.**
How are you specifically investing in eternity today?
- 2. Setting It Right.**
How can you be more faithful with the 4T's (Time, Talent, Treasure, Truth) that God has given you?
- 3. Living It Out.**
What are you doing to prevent money from becoming your master?

WORKS PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who are distracted from the truth of eternity with the worries about money, thinking that their life's security is dependent on it. Pray that their eyes and hearts will be opened to the truth of God's Word and that He is more than capable to take care of them and their needs. Reach out to them and share to them the gospel. Pray for them that the Lord will cause them to put their trust and security in Him alone.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

- I. Thanksgiving**
Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives
- II. Country and the World**
Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation
- III. Church**
That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide
- IV. CCF Facilities**
Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain
- V. Personal Concerns**
Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 16:13

No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and wealth.