

Luke

See Jesus

A Radical Way to Be Financially Secure

Luke 16:1-15

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Feb. 26, 2023

Remember, Jesus only tells a parable when He wants to shock us and shake us out of our conventional and human way of thinking. Jesus knows how resistant and slow we are to release our conventional and human ways of thinking about money!

Make financial decisions today that will secure a future home for you where incredibly grateful people will welcome you in with open arms.

Right here in this parable, you can see some of the biggest mistakes you can make with your money.

I. If You Think You Own It, You'll Never Invest It in the Things that Matter Most

He uses the word “manager” or “management” seven times in this parable to drive home to us that we are handling and managing someone else’s wealth.

Luke 16:12 “And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?”

Everything you have is God’s, not your own. He owns it, He gave it to you, and you will give an account for it.

II. If Your Heart is Obsessed with What You Possess – You’ll Scoff at What Jesus Commends

A. Jesus Knows What’s Going on in Your Heart

Your heart determines the direction of your life as well as the grip on your stuff.

If your heart is locked onto money because you love it and live for it, you won’t just dismiss or ignore what Jesus is saying right here. You’ll rail against it and walk away from it.

Luke 16:14-15 “The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed Him. ¹⁵And He said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.’”

Some translations say they scoffed or sneered at Him. It’s the same word that describes what they were doing when He hung on the cross.

What’s going on in their hearts in verse 15 is the reason for the reaction in verse 14! Your heart informs, fuels, and feeds your emotions that determines how you see other people and how you hear what’s being said.

You either love money or you love God and other people, but you can’t do both!

Luke 16:13 “No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

When you truly love God and other people – which are the two great commands – you’ll start using money to bless other people and get in on what God is doing.

Be careful if you’re thinking, “I can’t be guilty of doing this wrong because I don’t have much money at all.” You don’t have to have a lot of money to love money.

B. Jesus Says to Be Shrewd with Your Money

Luke 16:8-9 “The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”

Shrewd means to be clever, aware, resourceful, insightful, and able to make good judgments about what matters most. In other words, you see through the mess to what matters most. In the midst of the noise, you tune in to His voice.

III. If You Think You Need More Before You Can Give – You Really Don’t Know Your Own Heart

Luke 16:10 “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.”

It’s not about what you have. It’s about who you are and where your heart is most.

Notice in verse 10, Jesus doesn’t just say that if you’re not using your money with a stewardship mindset, you’re not living wisely. He says you’re being dishonest – because you’re spending money as if it’s yours, when it’s not.

You will give an account for every dollar that comes your way. A lot of those dollars were meant to land in your hand and be passed on quickly to someone else around you.

IV. If You Think This Won’t End and Your Money Won’t Fail – You’ve Lost Sight of Your Ultimate Home

Take a look at a serious and sobering phrase that should change the way you view money and should motivate you to use it for God’s glory and to never put your trust or security in it:

Luke 16:9 “And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, **so that when it fails** they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”

There’s nowhere you can put your money that will ultimately last unless you send it on ahead!

If you don’t know of good ministries you can partner with, start right here with your local church.

2023 GFC Missions

\$560,000 of our general budget goes to Gospel Ministries outside of our church.

Papua New Guinea (Tami People) – Kim & Annie Colich serving for over 30 years now in Bible Translation (Wycliffe Bible Translators)	South East Asia	Japan
Czech Republic	Romania	Ethiopia
Albania	Thailand	Middle East
Fairhaven – Food and shelter	New Hope Center – Crisis Pregnancy	Through The Gate – Women’s Addiction Residency
Pure Life – Residential Counseling for Sexual Addictions	Capernaum – Gospel ministry to our friends and families with disabilities	Young Life – Taking the Gospel into public high schools
Campus Outreach – Taking the Gospel onto the campus of UC and NKU	Deaf Biblical Counseling – Our deaf community getting sound biblical counseling	Cincy At The Well – Offering practical help and the Gospel to women who are trapped in the dance clubs and adult entertainment industry in our area
Kentucky Jail Ministries – Ministering to inmates in Kentucky	FCA – Ministering to and through coaches in our area	TUMI – Equips leadership for urban church, especially among the poor

For more details, visit graceky.org/missions.