

# **The Life of Christ**

## Lesson 7

Luke 16:1-13

February 21, 2021

### **Why You Must Handle Money Wisely**

#### **Introduction**

Webster's defines "shrewd" as "given to wily and artful ways or dealing." We usually use the word to describe someone that's worked a clever business deal or contract. The term is sometimes a description of underhanded business transactions but is also sometimes used as a compliment. Whatever the case, the word is almost always used to describe how the world works and is seldom used to describe how Christians are expected to behave.

In Luke 16, Jesus challenged his disciples on this point: Why can't we as believers use earthly resources to further the Kingdom in innovative and intelligent ways? Although our money, time, and talents are all temporary and earthly resources, we can use them to bring others to Christ. There is nothing holy or righteous about our money or spare time, but if used shrewdly, we can build relationships, strengthen the church, and build up "treasures in heaven." Just as the grateful debtors were thankful to the shrewd manager of the rich man's resources, so also will those that we lead to Christ being thankful that we used our material resources for heaven's purposes.

***Memory verse: "So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"—Luke 16:11***

Pray and read Luke 16:1-13. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

## **What does the passage say?**

1. What was the manager's reputation? (Luke 16:1)
2. What did the rich man tell his manager? (Luke 16:2)
3. What was the manager worried about in this parable? (Luke 16:3-4)
4. What did he do to ingratiate himself to his employer's debtors? (Luke 16:3-7)
5. How did the master respond to what his manager had done? (Luke 16:8)
6. For what is wealth to be used? (Luke 16:9)
7. What can we do to become trustworthy with "true riches?" (Luke 16:11)
8. What did Jesus say about our ability to serve two masters? (Luke 16:13)

## What does the passage mean?

1. Compare the manager's level of motivation before he heard that he would get fired and after he learned that he was going to get fired. Why was he more motivated after he learned of his boss' plan to fire him? (Luke 16:1-8)
2. Why did the rich man commend the manager rather than get angry about getting less money than owed to him? (Luke 16:8)
3. If verses 8 and 9 seem confusing. Why would Jesus tell us to use our money to "make friends?" Try reading the same verses in two or three different paraphrased translations: the New Living Translation, the New Life Version, or The Word (try the Bible app). What do you think Jesus is saying here? (Matthew 10:16; Luke 16:8-9)

4. Verses 10-12 deal with being trustworthy with others' resources. What does this have to do with the parable of the dishonest manager in verses 1-9? (Matthew 24:45-47; Luke 16:11)
  
5. Why do you think Jesus talked about serving two masters (God and money) after the parable of the shrewd manager? (Luke 16:13; Hebrews 13:5)

### **Applying the passage**

1. How would you rate your stewardship of heavenly possessions? How are you wise and astute with the resources that God has entrusted to you to help others come to Christ? (Deuteronomy 8:18; Proverbs 3:9, 22:7)

2. To which master do you feel like you are more committed? Money, or Jesus? What are some practical things that you can do to bring your focus back to God? (Matthew 6:33; Luke 16:13; Philippians 4:19; Colossians 3:23)
3. Pray and then write down a few resources other than money that Jesus entrusts to us. (Hint: time, talents, what else?) Now write down what you are doing on a daily or weekly basis to use these resources for God's glory.