

# BEING CLEVER WITH CASH

## Address the Mess – Part 3

February 11, 2024

Pastor Brian

Jesus told this story to his disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money.<sup>2</sup> So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.’

<sup>3</sup> “The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg.’<sup>4</sup> Ah, I know how to ensure that I’ll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.’

<sup>5</sup> “So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe him?’<sup>6</sup> The man replied, ‘I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.’ So the manager told him, ‘Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.’

<sup>7</sup> “ ‘And how much do you owe my employer?’ he asked the next man. ‘I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,’ was the reply. ‘Here,’ the manager said, ‘take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.’

<sup>8</sup> “The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light.<sup>9</sup> Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.

<sup>10</sup> “If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities.<sup>11</sup> And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?<sup>12</sup> And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?

<sup>13</sup> “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.”

*Luke 16:1–13 (NLT)*

## WHAT NOT TO DO WITH MONEY

### 1. DON’T TRASH IT.

*“...the manager was wasting his employer’s money.” (1)*

*“A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.” (Luke 15:13, NLT)*

### 2. DON’T TRUST IT.

*“Now what? ...I can't dig...beg...”*

*“Your money can be gone in a flash, as if it had grown wings and flown away like an eagle.” (Proverbs 23:5, GNB)*

### 3. DON'T TREASURE IT.

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

*“Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!” (Ecclesiastes 5:10, NLT)*

## 3 TRUTHS ABOUT TREASURE

### 1. MONEY IS A TRUST.

*“a certain rich man who had a manager handling HIS affairs.” (1)*

*“And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?” (Luke 16:11–12, NLT)*

### 2. MONEY IS A TEST.

*“So he called him and said to him, “What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.”” (Luke 16:2, NKJV)*

*How I handle money shows...*

- What I LOVE.

*“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.” (13)*

God and money: they both demand my loyalty and fealty.

- What I TRUST.

*“Tell those who are rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone, but their pride and trust should be in the living God who always richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.” (1 Timothy 6:17, The Living Bible)*

- What I **VALUE**.

*“I tell you, **use the riches of this world** to help others. In that way, you will make friends for yourselves. Then when your riches are gone, you will be welcomed into your eternal home in heaven.” (Luke 16:9, NIRV)*

*“Tell [the rich] to **use their money to do good**...By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven—it is the only safe investment for eternity!” (1 Timothy 6:18–19, The Living Bible)*

### 3. MONEY IS A **TOOL**.

*“So I say to you, **use your worldly wealth**...” (Luke 16:9, NEB)*

*“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” (1 Timothy 6:10a, NLT)*

**What the manager did right:**

- He **PREPARED**.

*“**Now what?** ...I can’t dig...beg...”*

*“**The wise man looks ahead**. The fool attempts to fool himself and won’t face facts.” (Proverbs 14:8, The Living Bible)*

- He **PLANNED**.

*“**I know what I’ll do**...” (Luke 16:4, NIV)*

*“**We should make plans**—counting on God to direct us.” (Proverbs 16:9, The Living Bible)*

- He **PERFORMED**.

*“So **he invited each person who owed money** to his employer to come and discuss the situation.” (Luke 16:5a, NLT)*

*“We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work.” (John 9:4, NLT)*

## **ACTION STEP**

**Financial Peace University**