Lesson 16

CHAPTER 16, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Scripture says, "the love of money is the root of all evil" (I Timothy 6:10). Chapter 16 is about where our focus is. How we spend our treasure shows where our heart is. Chapter 16 has two parables, the Shrewd Servant and the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus. Notice that these two parables come right after the Parable of the Prodigal Son. They all have something in common, money.

1. Read Luke 16:1-13. This parable of the Shrewd Servant is addressed to Jesus' disciples and can be difficult to comprehend, so don't get discouraged. What is the story line?

2. Read Luke 16:14-15. What key does this verse give as to why the master commended the shrewd manager for his actions? What would it look like in our Christian walk to be as shrewd as the servant? The second key is verse 9. What do you think making friends for eternity using the shrewd manager's tactics looks like to us?

3. In verses 10-13, we see more evidence of the meaning of the Shrewd Servant. What do you see that is challenging to you?

4. In Luke 16:14-18, Jesus addresses the Pharisees who must have loved money. Of what does he condemn them?

5. The final parable is about the Rich Man and Lazarus. Read verses 19-31. What was the difference between the location after death of the rich man and of Lazarus? What was separating them? What does this parable say to you?

APPLICATION: We are all wealthy by the world's standards. What does this chapter say about how we spend our treasure? Who can you touch with your treasure? What is our responsibility as we give our treasure to those in need?

PRAYER: God of mercy and grace, you call each of us to help our fellow man who is less fortunate than we. Guide us to those who need the help of our financial blessings. Give us hearts to be like Jesus who continually reached out to those who were less fortunate and hurting, so that we can be his hands and feet, freeing their burdens. We thank you for Jesus and the opportunity to serve your people. Amen