

Luke 16 – 9 July 2023

“Choosing Foresight Over Eyesight”

Introduction

- *Beginning in Chap 10, Jesus is going thru Judean cities on His way to Jerusalem for final time
- *In Chap 14, Jesus & His disciples sat at a meal at a chief Pharisee's house
 - *He spoke to them of love, humility & grace
 - *Then in Chap 15, He spoke of receiving the lost back with grace and joy!
- *Now in Chap 16 He turns to speak to His disciples about choosing Him over self
- *Are we living for Christ or are we covetous?
- *This world is just the training ground for eternity to come – this life proves everything about our heart

So today, we'll see 3 characteristics that prove a Christian is choosing foresight over eyesight

#1: We're prudent in using our resources for the next phase of life (Vs 1-12)

Read Vs 1-2 – *The Unjust but Wise Steward*

1. We'll all give an account, b/c the earth is the Lord's & the fulness thereof (Psm 24:1)
 - a. Rom 14:12 – Give account of ourselves
 - b. II Cor 5:10 – Receive for little or much
 - c. Matt 12:36 – give account of all idle words
 - d. I Pet 4:5 – Believer or not, all give account
2. How are we preparing now to give account?

Read Vs 3

1. Are we preparing for the next phase of life...b/c there is one
 - a. Read Prov 30:24-25 – Ants prepare for next
 - b. Parents are no longer at certain stage
 - c. Young man work replaced by old man work

Read Vs 4-7

1. Used his present position to prepare for his future position
2. He noticed he needed relationships & people for the next phase of life even more than money

Read Vs 8

1. He's not commended for sinfully misusing his master's money, but for his wisdom to prepare
2. If an unjust earthly steward knows how to prepare for the next phase, how much more so should Christians
 - a. We prepare for the future by giving the Gospel & growing in discipleship
 - b. Let's not let Coca-Cola have a higher distribution rate than the life-saving Gospel

Read Vs 9

1. Jesus now applies the principle to Christians using this world's resources to promote eternity

Read Vs 10-11

1. Money is considered 'the least' or the lowest thing of value that we have to deal with
2. Servants of God are the ones that use the temporary money of this world for eternal gains

Read Vs 12

1. Jesus equates the rich man's money as God's
2. Showing diligence w/ another's belongs is the proving grounds for our faithfulness

#2: We're clear regarding whom we serve (Vs 13-18)

Read Vs 13

1. We're either serving to please our flesh in this life or we're serving to please the Spirit of God in us for eternal life
2. It's impossible for our lives to be controlled by more than one source or god

Read Vs 14

1. Interesting Jesus was talking to His disciples (see vs 1) yet Pharisees were listening whole time
2. Deride – To turn up your nose at someone

Read Vs 15

1. These men looked down on all else including the steward in the last account that Jesus spoke of
 - a. They compared themselves to others to “justify themselves”
2. Instead of being overly concerned w/ men's opinion of us, we need be concerned w/ God's

3. Don't need self-esteem, we need God-esteem
 - a. Read II Cor 3:5 – Self-esteem is a rollercoaster, God-esteem is stable & forever
4. Now the following 3 verses show us 'how' they thought too highly of themselves

Read Vs 16-17

1. The Pharisees had changed the Law by setting their own standards from the Law
2. He's saying, they should have stuck to the Law

Read Vs 18

1. There was evidently a direct contention between Jesus & the Pharisees regarding divorce
 - a. Pharisees taught you could divorce even if your wife burnt your breakfast
 - b. Jesus brings them back to simply what the Law had said

#3: We're faithful to believe God's Word (Vs 19-31)

Read Vs 19-21 – *Lazarus & the Rich Man*

1. This isn't a parable, but a true story
 - a. It's never called a parable
 - b. Jesus never names the people in parables
2. Notice the relationship between the two men

Read Vs 22

1. Abraham's bosom was the awaiting place of peace for all those before Jesus' cross
 - a. Different than paradise (ie 3rd heaven)
 - b. They were waiting for Jesus to descend & set the captives free to paradise

Read Vs 23-24

1. Abraham's bosom is temp place before paradise for those made righteous & hell (*hades*) is temp place before Lake of Fire (*Gehenna*) for those still in sin
2. It's fitting that Abraham is seen as preeminent here b/c he is known as the Father of Faith

Read Vs 25-26

1. The decisions in this life are irrevocable
2. Can't decide after death w/ full knowledge
 - a. We decide today by reasonable faith

Read Vs 27-28

1. When he realizes he can't be saved he then tries to save those closest to him, his brothers
2. This answers the question "how do you conduct yourself at the funeral for a lost soul"
 - a. Tell them, 'If Joe was here now, he would want you to know Jesus Christ and be saved'

Read Vs 29-31

1. We don't need endless programs to reach the lost, we need to read them the Word of God
2. Signs, even resurrections, won't change hearts
 - a. Believing Jesus loves you & died to bring you to eternal life - that will change you!
3. Alt Lazarus will rise & most still didn't change
4. It's not a miracle from a messenger, but the mercy of the message that changes hearts

Conclusion

This whole chapter speaks of covetousness. Are we doing nothing but consuming in this life or are we laying up treasures in heaven?

1. Are we prudent in using our resources for eternity in paradise?

- a. There is an accounting coming for our life
- b. We want to hear, “Well done good & faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord”

2. Are we clear regarding whom we serve?

- a. God knows our heart
- b. Ask His for strength to stand for truth in love

3. Are we faithful to believe God’s Word?

- a. After death, it’s too late, our destiny is set
- b. What if tomorrow never comes (on earth)
 - i. Use today to the fullest to show God our love for Him