

This Week's Message: *How to Invest Your One and Only Life*

Passage: *Luke 16:1-13*

Key Takeaways: *Jesus shifts his attention from the Pharisees and addresses His disciples directly. He shares with them a parable of a shrewd manager. In his story, a respected land owner discovers one of his managers is stealing from him. Upon confronting him, this owner promptly fires the manager demanding he relinquish the books he has been overseeing. While swift in his judgement, the owner shows great mercy to this man since such crimes were punishable by imprisonment or death. The manager knows he is guilty, but he is concerned for his future. He has lost his job, and his reputation will be ruined. On his way to retrieve the books, he devises a plan. He calls in each of his master's debtors. One by one, he reduces the amount they owe by almost a year's wages. The debtors believe he is acting on behalf of his master and celebrate their good fortune. In his shrewdness, this manager secures for himself a future by banking upon the mercy and generosity of his master. And he is right. At the end of the parable, the owner takes the loss, and praises the manager for his wise actions.*

Jesus is trying to teach a powerful message through this parable. *He says, "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" (Luke 16:9).*

(1) We must consider how we are stewarding what has been entrusted to us. - *Unrighteous wealth in this text speaks of those resources (time, money, talents) above what we need to live. What are we doing with these things?*

(2) Our time is limited. - *Just like the fired manager, we only have a short time to use what has been given to us.*

(3) Wise people leverage their resource for the only future that matters. - *We cannot take money, time, or things into eternity, but we can take other people. We must leverage our resources to that end.*

Questions to Think On & Discuss:

(1) Are you surprised by the owner's response to the shrewd manager? What can this teach us about Jesus and what is truly important to Him?

(2) How does our view of eternity play out in how we use what has been entrusted to us?

(3) If someone were to examine the way you steward your time, talents, and resources, would they conclude your objective was to leverage those things to connect people to the kingdom of God? If not, what do you need to change?



THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE:

Take 10 mins and do an inventory of your time, talents, and resources. Write out the things God has entrusted to your care. Now, consider how much of those things you are leveraging to bring about the Kingdom of God in our world? How would you live differently if you knew you were going to die this month? Ask God to show you one area you can change.