

**On the Money 02: "Tool, Test, and Trademark"**  
**Luke 16:1-13**

February 18, 2024

**Main Point:** While our stuff does not define us, how we use it does.

**One Troubling Question**

Why does giving \$1000 to God's work feel so different from spending \$1000 on ourselves? Now that's a good question! There's a BIG difference between the two. When I'm asked to give, the practical side of my brain takes control, looks at my bank balance and concludes, "I don't have \$1000, I'll give \$200." But when I'm looking to spend \$1000, the creative part of my brain takes control and I figure out a way to make it happen. I've done this. I'm guilty.

**Common Misunderstandings concerning Money and Stuff**

**"This is MY money and MY stuff."**

**"If I'm giving AT the church, I must be giving TO the church."**

**"Giving is a Win-Lose scenario."**

**Cool Parable!**

The story Jesus tells in Luke 16 is designed to help us look at our money and our stuff from God's perspective. Because when we look at it from His point of view it will be easier for us to do what He asks us to do.

**My Stuff is a Tool v.9.** God gave you your stuff because he wants you to use it for His purposes. If you are more worried about your stuff than you are the work of God in and through your stuff, don't expect Him to bless you with more stuff.

**My Stuff is a Test vv.10-12.** There is a direct connection between money management and spiritual health and well-being. Our stuff is a test. It's a test that will ultimately receive a grade. The Bible says in 1Corinthians 3, that we will all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and our lives will be judged. We will then fully understand that all of our stuff in this life was given of God to be used of God.

**My Stuff is a Trademark v.13.** How you use your stuff indicates to whom you really belong. You can't serve both money and God. You must choose.

**BIG Q: Am I a Servant to my stuff?**

**Family Night Big idea – Read Luke 16:1-13**

Teach your children that God expects us to use our money and stuff for His purposes.

**Elementary School** – Ask, "What did the manager do that almost cost him his job? How should we use our money and stuff (v.9)? Jesus said we should not try to serve both God and what?"

**Middle/ High School** – Ask, "How should we use our money and stuff (v.9)? How do people 'serve' money? How can we use our money and stuff for God and His purposes?"

**Prayer** "Father, thank You for your blessings. Help us use our money and stuff to serve You. Amen."

**Velocity (Middle and High School Students)**

**Velocity:** At the church this Wednesday, Feb. 21.

**Gravity:** Yes! In the Community Room.

**Today's Songs**

*I Believe*.....Phil Wickham

*God Really Loves Us*.....David Crowder

*Graves Into Gardens*.....Elevation Worship

**Women's Event**

You can sign up in February to see Priscilla Shirer live in Athens for her "Going Beyond" Event. The date is August 24<sup>th</sup>. Total cost is \$170 and that includes ticket and hotel. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Desk to find out more information. Act now before it sells out.

**Bracelets and Board Games**

Event for KidsJAMMERS this Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-7:30pm. Sign up today in KidsJAM.

**Kenya Mission Trip**

We are putting together a team to travel to Mission Thome in July. If you are curious about Mission Thome and what it is like to travel there, you are welcome to attend a meeting between the services on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Mother/Son Basketball Game**

Meet at GSU Hanner Fieldhouse on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. Registration is open online at [www.gracestatesboro.com](http://www.gracestatesboro.com).