



# The Road Less Traveled:

## Gospel of Luke.

In the middle section of the Gospel of Luke, we see a unique aspect of Jesus' ministry, his life and ministry on the road. We see him interact with strangers, answer difficult questions, and teach with boldness. Along the way, Jesus teaches his disciples—and us as well—what the Kingdom of God is and what it means to follow Him.

### WEEK SIX

#### STEWARDS OF THE KING

**Message Passage:** Luke 16:1-15

**Small Group Passage:** Luke 19:11-27

#### TEACHING AND VIDEO NOTES

**Luke 16:1** *Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager (steward) was accused of wasting his possessions.*

**What is a Steward?** A steward was a trusted servant, typically someone born into the household, who was responsible for the management and distribution of household provisions. He provided food for all the other servants, thus managing his master's resources for the well-being of others. He acted as an agent for his master, with full authority to transact business in the master's name.<sup>1</sup> **This particular steward was a bad one. He was wasteful. No one has a use for a wasteful steward.**

#### **Luke 16:2-9**

Should I be lying for Jesus? No, that is not what Jesus is saying. To help, let's look at what the manager got right and how that points towards an eternal mindset that we must have as believers.

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 1547.

#1 The manager believed the king when he told him he would have to give an account. One day, we will as well. The question is, do we act like it?

#2 The manager acted as someone who would have to give an account... and soon. Likewise, we must live as if Jesus' return is imminent.

#3 The manager recognized that the money would not sustain him in the end. Rather than trying to hoard as much wealth as possible, which he could have, he instead relied on building relationships that would matter in the end.

### **Luke 16:10-12**

What have we been given? All of us have been entrusted with things by God. We have been entrusted with time, gifts, wealth, and so many other things.

**Introspective Question:** What have we been good stewards of what God has given us? If the answer is no, we should not be surprised when God does not entrust us with more.

### **Luke 16:13-15**

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**Segway to Small Group:** If we are to be good stewards of all that God has given us, we must ask a couple of key questions: What has God entrusted to me? How can I steward it well?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

**READ:** Luke 19:11-27

1. As with any parable, the first step is to identify who the different people or objects represent. What do the characters in the parable (the nobleman, the servants, and the citizens) represent?

**Leader Note:** The nobleman is obviously Jesus. The time away in another land represents the time interval between his earthly ministry and the time when he will return at His second coming. The distant kingdom, then, is referring to heaven. The subjects who sent a delegation to reject the king's rule are referring to non-believers, specifically the Jews of the day, who had rejected Jesus. The servants who were given responsibilities and wealth (minas) to use well represent all believers, as we have all been entrusted by Jesus to be good stewards.

2. What does the nobleman expect of his servants while he is away? How does this relate to Jesus' expectations of His followers while we wait for His return?

**Leader Note:** The servants were to invest or put to good use the resources they were entrusted with (Minas/coins). Likewise, we are commanded to use well all that God has entrusted to us (1 Tim 4:14-16, Gen 1:28, and 1 Tim 6:17-19). If we refuse to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted us with, we are living a life of rebellion.

3. What has God entrusted you with? To put it another way, what should we be very intentional about stewarding well? Write the answers down as you go.

**Leader Note (Instructions):** I would encourage people to write down these answers as they go. We want people to fully understand what they have been entrusted with. Seeing them listed out on paper helps them do just that.

4. Vs 20. Why did one of the servants refuse to invest and grow what the master had given him? What reason did he give?

**Leader Note:** The servant who did nothing with the money described the master as “a hard man who reaped what he did not sow.” Is this an accurate description of God? No. Jesus is anything but harsh and unfair. However, as believers, we are ultimately held accountable for our actions. This is referred to as the Bema Seat or Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom 14:10-12 & 2 Cor 5:9-10). The unfaithful servants' mischaracterization of God should remind us that how we view Jesus will dictate our every action. We cannot faithfully respond to Jesus if we fundamentally misunderstand who He is. Bad theology hurts people. Is there any fear, doubt, or misconception about God that keeps you from being bold in serving Him?

5. What would it look like for someone to repeat the same mistake as the servant in verse 20?

**Leader Note:** This would resemble a Christian who has professed faith in Jesus but then fails to take any action in their faith. They sit on the sidelines and refuse to go and do the very things that Jesus commanded us to do, such as making disciples (Matt 29:19-20), loving our neighbor (Matt 12:30-31), or using our spiritual gifts (1 Peter 4:10-11). Such a lifeless faith is just what Jesus' half-brother James warned us about in James 1:22-25. What is scary is that it is so easy for us to do just that.

6. What reasons or ways could we easily justify a faith of sitting on the sidelines rather than being a good steward of all that God has entrusted to us?

**Leader Note:** Here are a couple of reasons (lies) that we can believe in to justify rejecting our roles of stewardship.

- Sideline sitting is easy, as it is the path of least resistance.. Being a good steward of what God has entrusted us with takes work.
- A faithful life of good stewardship and obedience is not the norm. Living a life to please God and one day hearing, "Well done, good and faithful servant," will set us apart from society.
- For some people, their insecurity and fear of messing things up keep them on the sidelines. This is especially true when it comes to stewarding spiritual gifts.

7. We desire to hear the words good and faithful servant one day. We should also desire to be entrusted with more and more by God as we prove ourselves faithful. Yet, it is so important that we remember that our obedience and desire to please God do not lead to God loving us more. Why is that so important to remember?
8. How can we, as a small group, encourage one another to be faithful stewards of what God has given us?

### **PRAYER TIME**

Today's discussion provides a great opportunity to pray for one another that we may be good stewards of all that God has given us.

### **DISMISS**