

Luke 16:1–13

“What Our Use of Wealth Shows about Us”

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For what is the wasteful steward commended? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Luke 16:1–13 prepares us for the second serial reading in the public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these thirteen verses of Holy Scripture, we see that diligence in using wealth well shows what we treasure, that the grace to use it well is indicative of where we are going, and that its place in our priorities shows whom/what we serve.

Thursday, March 25, 2021 • Read Luke 16:1–13

Questions from the Scripture text: To whom is Jesus speaking (v1)? What did the rich man have? What accusation was brought? What did he demand from the steward (v2)? What can he no longer be? Why was this such a tough spot for the steward (v3)? What does he hope to accomplish (v4)? Whom does he call in v5? What does he ask? What does one say (v6)? What does the steward tell him to do? What does another say (v7)? What does the steward tell him to do? How does the master respond to this (v8)? To whom is the unjust steward compared? How do they compare to the sons of light? For what does Jesus say to use money (v9)? Into what kind of home should disciples of Christ hope to be received by friends they gain? What does being faithful in the least mean someone will be (v10)? What does being unjust in the least mean someone will be? What should we use well (v11)? With what will we then be faithful? With what should we be faithful (v12)? What can no servant do (v13)? What are his two options? What specifically can we not serve?

The “wasting” (v1) of the swindling steward connects him to the younger brother, of whom the same verb was used in 15:13. We knew at the end of chapter 15 that the older brother and younger brother had both begun in the same sin (failing to treasure the Lord Himself). It turns out that not just in parables, but in our ordinary living, how we use wealth can show us a lot.

How we use wealth can show us what we treasure, v1–9. In v8b–9, Jesus Himself gives us the lesson of the parable (which spares us agonizing over the morality of what the steward did): “the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light, and I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.”

Wealth has the same problem as your life in this world: it runs out; it fails. But when life in this world ends, there is an everlasting home. If you’re a son of light (v8), you should be hoping that your everlasting home will be the one where other sons of light are waiting to welcome you (v9). So that is what should set the priority for our use of wealth: we should be clever (“shrewd,” v8) to leverage our wealth for evangelism and for the support and sanctification of believers. Don’t slouch into worldly comforts and pleasures; wheel and deal for eternal treasures—particularly for others’ eternal treasures.

How we use wealth can show us where we are going, v10–12. When the Lord Jesus asks the rhetorical question in v11, “who will commit to your trust the true riches,” we realize that these true riches are not the wealth of this world but the welcome to the everlasting home to which He has just referred in v9 (n.b. that He uses the same phrase “unrighteous mammon” in both verses).

So, faithfulness in using money is a direct indicator as to whether we can expect to be welcomed in that home. The wealth of this world is a small thing. Either we are faithful in it or unfaithful in it. And what we do with it is an indicator of whether we will have the true riches. When God saves someone, He changes what they treasure (cf. v1–9 and the discussion above), in order that we may see from how we use our wealth the value of the home to which He is bringing us. This should, of course, give us great pause if we do not recognize this change in ourselves.

How we use wealth can show us whom we serve, v13. God and mammon cannot both be masters. When push comes to shove, either we will attempt to use wealth to serve God, or we will attempt to use God to serve our wealth. In that moment, we will know whom we are truly serving.

What do you work at with your money? How are you faithful in using it? Whom does your spending say is your Master?

Suggested Songs: ARP45B “Daughter, Incline Your Ear” or TPH187 “I Belong to Jesus”

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Look 16 verses 1 through 13, these are God's words.

He also said to his disciples there was a certain rich man who had a steward. And an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. So he called him and said to him, what is this? I hear about you give an account of your stewardship.

For you can no longer be steward. In the steward said within himself what shall I do for my master is taking the stewardship away from me? Cannot dig. And ashamed to beg I ever resolved what to do then when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

So he called everyone of his master's deaders to him and said to the first how much do you owe my master he said a hundred measures of oil. So he said to him take your bill sit down quickly, right? 50. And he said to another how much do you owe?

So he said a hundred measures of wheat. And you said to him take your bill and write eighty. So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. And I say to you make friends for yourselves unrighteous man that when you fail they may receive you into an everlasting home.

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much. He who is unjust in what is least. Is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous man who will commit to your trust the true riches. And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's who will give you what is your own?

No servant conserve to you masters for either he will hate the one and love the other or else you will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and man. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word.

There is a warning here. Mammon means wealth as that what you're going to ask Victoria.

Okay shrewd means clever wise intelligent skillful. Okay. There's a warning here. That you may be in the church you may be in what is visibly in this world the masters house, you may even be in a position of stewardship one to whom the use of money is entrusted yes.

Sophia. Nothing okay you may be even be one to whom money is entrusted or some sort of administration or leadership duty is entrusted and you may be an unbeliever you may be what the Lord Jesus calls in verse eight a son of this world we know that that was true even among the apostles right the Judas who was an unbeliever.

And was indeed shrewd in the use of money he was the one who held the money bag he was the treasurer as it were among the apostles the Lord here is not saying to be like this son of the world in every way that is here bothers a lot of people that the master commends the cleverness or the skill of.

The servant but it's quite obvious that he's an unbeliever especially because in verse 1 when it says this man was wasting his goods it uses the same word that in verse 13 of the previous chapter of the younger son younger brother when he was still unconverted wasting his possessions.

And so. Since it is a danger that we may be in the church and may even be servants in the church with responsibilities in the church and be unconverted it's helpful to us to know that how we use wealth can show us what we treasure do we treasure this world or do we treasure the everlasting home?

After he notes that the sons of this world are more shrewd than the sons of light he says to us verse 9. I say to you make friends for yourselves by unrighteous men, that is wealth that does not have any particular inherent value in a in itself for righteousness.

Say that when you fail that's when you are used up. They may receive you into an everlasting home so now we know what kind of friends talking about it's talking about those who are believers talking about those whom we hope to see become believers and this tells us what we treasure if we treasure the everlasting home of the Lord Jesus and one of our primary priorities for how we use our money will be for the relieving of believers that we will be.

Relieving them who perhaps our even without whom in this world or needy in this world and yet if the Lord takes them to glory ahead of us they will very happily return the favor in glory and receive us to an everlasting home so he says how you use your wealth shows you whether you treasure eternity was whether you treasure Christ, whether you treasure his people and then of course, there are those whom we hope to see become believers and so we may say here and there you.

Use it for the. Work of the church to use it for the work of missions to support Bible translation and the purchase of Bibles for those who can afford it and so forth that they may hear the Gospel of Christ that they may come into possession of the everlasting home that we are also hoping to go to and we may even find out in glory.

We might not know in this life just whom the Lord blessed and saved by means in parked of how we used our wealth how we, Used our giving and what a wonderful experience that will be when you meet people in glory that the Lord used you instrumentally in bringing them to faith in Jesus Christ.

And so how we use our wealth shows us what we treasure if you treasure eternity, you will work act and be intentional about creative about diligent with how to use your money to say to serve the Lord and to serve eternal souls well how we use our wealth can show us where we are going.

You look at verse 10 through 12 he says he is faithful in what is least is also faithful and much he is unjust and what is least is also unjust and much therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous man and that which does not have any inherent eternal value and righteousness who will commit your to your trust the true richest.

Okay, so he says one of the things that he is doing in the hearts and lives of those to whom he will bring that eternal inheritance that Jesus has earned is he makes them faithful with that temporary wealth that we cannot keep so he says you got the unrighteous memon, it doesn't belong to that you heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells that's how the Bible talks about the new heavens and the new earth so unrighteous men in here is the wealth of this world as opposed to the wealth of.

The next world it doesn't mean that it's wicked to own but he says one of the things he does in the lives of those whom he is bringing into that inheritance that belongs to those who trust in Christ that belongs to Christ and therefore to those who trust in him one of the things he does to those whom he is bringing into that inheritance is he helps them or grows them by a grace that makes them faithful to him so we recognize we belong to the Lord Jesus our all our time all.

Our energy all our effort belongs to Jesus and all our wealth belongs to Jesus. And so as he grows us in that he's giving us evidence of where our treasure is in versus one through nine ad where we are going now versus ten through twelve and verse twelve he says if you've not been faithful and what is another man who will give you what is your own and so how we use money says something about whether we are those who belong to Christ and are coming into his and it is inheritance as our own inheritance and so, In the last place it's not surprising that how we use our money shows how we use our wealth or time everything but our money shows whom we serve verse 13, no servant can serve two masters for either he'll hate the one and love the other or else you will be loyal to the one and despise the other you cannot serve.

God and mammon, so you can't tell yourself align the servant of the Lord Jesus, but I love wealth and one of my life's goals is to amass as much and enjoy it. As much as possible note that can't be your life go Christ, if Christ is your life goal, then there will be times when you have to part with money, in fact you will be actively trying to part with some money in order to serve Christ and and you find out when push comes to shove which one is your master by which one you serve when there are things that you could have done in the service of Christ, but you

didn't want to let go of that wealth.

Perhaps it was what was making you feel secure for the future perhaps you're storing it up for some pleasure or entertainment that you hope to in experience perhaps there is some possession or property that that you hope to gain by that money and you don't quite have enough yet and here comes the opportunity to serve the Lord with it you say all but if I do that then I'll get behind on being able to buy this other thing.

And then you find out there's the Lord Jesus really your master if you're thinking that way no it's that possession it's that pleasure. It's that security that you thought you're going to have by means of storing of entrep and so how we use our wealth shows us what we treasure whether we're living for this world or the next it shows us where we're going because using it well is one of the graces that the Lord works in those who are coming into the true inheritance and it shows us whom we serve whether the Lord Jesus is our master or not.

So let's pray and ask him that he would do that work of grace. And help us to use our wealth and our time and our energy and everything but particularly in this passage are wealth cleverly diligently in a way that encourages us as to what it shows about us is great.

Our father in heaven. We thank you that you prophesied of Christ that the nations would bring him their tribute that they would serve him as king and here we are. From among the other nations who are blessed and the family of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob because your son our Lord Jesus is the lion of the tribe of Judah.

And we pray that as we look to you for your grace and Christ that your spirit would lay hold of our hearts and our minds and our lives that we would love to use everything that you entrust to us for the service of the Lord Jesus help us Lord not to serve money help us not to live for this world and help us we pray to see the fruit coming out by your work of grace in our lives that testifies that we are coming into that everlasting and true inheritance.

In the new heavens and the new earth in which righteousness dwells so thank you for counting us righteous in him and please continue the work of shaping us righteously like him for we ask it even in his name amen.