

Luke: Heaven's Savior with a Human Touch
Does Money Misbehave?
Luke 16:1-13, 19-31
April 23, 2017

You've got a lot more to **GAIN** when you **GIVE!**

God's Perspective on Our Stuff

1. Everything you own is a **TOOL**. Luke 16:1-9

Luke 16:1-13 — *1 He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. 2 And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.'*

3 And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.'

5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' 7 Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

8 The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. 9 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.

Use it to impact others' future!

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2. Everything you own is a **TEST**. Luke 16:10-13

10 *"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. 11 If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth,*

who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

13 No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Luke 12:34 – 34 *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

- *Do I think and worry about it frequently?*
- *Do I give up doing what I should do or would like to do in order to make more money?*
- *Do I spend a great deal of my time caring for my possessions?*
- *Is it hard for me to give money away?*
- *Am I in debt?*

Use it to prepare for your future!

Again, You've got a lot more to **GAIN** when you **GIVE!**

3. Everything you own can lead to a **TRAGEDY**. Luke 16:19-31

Luke 16:19-31 – 19 *“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.*

22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

24 And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’

27 And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— 28 for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ 30 And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 He said to

him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.' ”

Don't trust it to secure your future!

You've got a lot more to **GAIN** when you **GIVE!**

Let's talk about misbehaving money...

1. Who owned the possessions that the manager was wasting and what does that have to do with the things that we possess today (v.1)?
2. What did the manager realize when he was told that he was fired that he had failed to realize prior to this (v.2-3)?
3. What was the manager's motivation for reducing the debts of those who owed the rich man (v. 4-7)?
4. Why was the dishonest manager commended for his actions (v.8)?
5. What is Jesus encouraging us to do with our possessions by telling this story about the dishonest manager (v.9-10)?
6. Why is it important to teach children when they are young how to make sure that God is the priority when it comes to how they handle money (v.10-12)?
7. Why is it impossible to serve both God and money and how do we make sure that we choose God over money (v.13)?
8. What were the symbols of prosperity and of poverty in the story that Jesus told about the rich man and Lazarus (v.19-21)?
9. What is the ultimate equalizer in this life regardless of how much you might possess (v.22)?
10. How can you tell that the rich man had not really changed even after he died and found himself in Hades (v.24, 27)?
11. Why wouldn't people believe warnings from beyond the grave about the judgment that awaits them if they don't change the course of their lives (v.29-31)?