

THE BOOK OF LUKE

Bible 101 — Summit View Church of Christ

Spring 2023

LUKE 16

Luke 16:1-9 — Parable of the Dishonest-But-Shrewd Manager

16:1-2 — Why was the manager being fired?

16:3 — What problem did the manager face, knowing his job was being taken away?

16:4 — What was the goal behind the strategy that the manager devised to deal with his situation?

16:5-7 — In what way did the dishonest manager act “shrewdly” (verse 8)? How did he achieve his goal?

16:8 — The master commended the dishonest manager not for his dishonesty as such, but because he _____.

16:8 — Jesus says, “For the people of this world are more _____ in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the _____.”

16:9 — What lesson does Jesus apply to this parable?

- What is one way we could put this teaching into practice today?
- Many people find this parable unsettling because Jesus seems to hold up a dishonest person as a role model for his followers. Is Jesus really calling his followers to lie, cheat, sin? How would you express Jesus’ teaching here?

Luke 16:10-15 — More Teachings on Wealth

16:10-12 — Jesus seems to change topics slightly here, though still with a focus on wealth. If a person is not trustworthy in handling “worldly wealth,” no one will trust them with _____ riches.

- *Have you ever seen a believer act as if our lives are split between the secular realm and the religious/spiritual realm? Consider verse 11. In Jesus’ view, are they indeed separate, or are they united? How can you tell?*
- *Still thinking of verse 11, how should our desire to win God’s trust affect...*
 - ...how we conduct ourselves on the job?*
 - ...how we handle our finances when we’re not wealthy?*
 - ...how we handle minor responsibilities in the church?*

16:13 — No one can serve two _____. Either you will _____ the one and _____ the other or you will be _____ to the one and _____ the other. You cannot serve both God and _____.

16:14 — The Pharisees sneered at Jesus because they loved _____.

16:15 — Jesus said the Pharisees justified themselves in the eyes of others, but God knew their _____. And he said that what people value highly is _____ in God’s sight.

Luke 16:16-18 — More Teachings

16:16-17 — The _____ and the _____ were proclaimed until _____. Now the good news of the _____ of God is being preached. Yet not even the least stroke of a _____ will drop out of the _____.

16:18 — What sin does Jesus warn against here?

Verses 16-18 are difficult to interpret because they seem out of place, stuck between two parables on wealth. But I suspect that Jesus is setting forth an important progression of thought here:

16:1-9 — Use worldly wealth for eternal purposes.

16:10-12 — If you don't handle worldly wealth wisely, God won't entrust spiritual riches to you.

16:13-15 — You can't fool God. He knows if you love money more than you love him—that is to say, if your priorities in life are selfish.

16:16-17 — The Law & the Prophets still stand. Therefore, the values expressed in them still stand—including their warnings against greed and selfishness (notice verses 29-31). Selfishness has never pleased God—not in the time of the Law & Prophets, and not in the advancing kingdom of God.

16:18 — In this teaching on divorce, Jesus may be pointing out the selfishness of such an act, which is akin to the selfishness demonstrated by the Pharisees through their love of money. (Remember to interpret verse 18 in light of Jesus' fuller teaching on divorce in Matthew 19:1-9 and Paul's teaching on divorce in 1 Corinthians 7:10-16. Both Paul and Jesus indicate that there can be divorce in which one party is innocent. Presumably, the innocent party would be free to remarry. But Jesus is not speaking of the innocent party here.)

16:19-31 — The rich man failed to use his wealth for eternal purposes and suffered for it when his life was done. Unless his five brothers repent, the same will happen to them. Poor use of God-given wealth will be punished eternally.

Luke 16:19-31 — Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

- Only verse 19 describes how the rich man lived before his death. Not a word in that verse states that the rich man did anything wrong. So why did he end up in torment?

16:24-28 — Twice, the rich man, in Hades, acts as if Lazarus ought to serve him, suggesting that he still thinks he is greater than Lazarus. What two things does he ask Abraham to have Lazarus do for him?

- verse 24 —
- verses 27-28 —

16:27-31 — What does the rich man hope might help his five brothers escape his horrific destiny?

- How does Abraham respond to this hope?
- What is Jesus hinting about the effect his own resurrection will have on those who reject the Law of Moses and the writings of the Prophets?