

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 33

Lesson 34 – Instructions about Money and its Consequences

Background:

This lesson is based on one chapter from the Gospel of Luke. Jesus tells two parables, the first about a shrewd manager and the second about a rich man and a poor man called Lazarus. Not that this is a different Lazarus than the brother of Martha and Mary.

God had promised His people that they would be blessed if they obeyed His laws, but the Pharisees had perverted this truth. They taught that wealth was a sure sign of acceptance, but poverty was not.

Jesus tells the parables to illustrate God's attitude towards money and its connection with sin. He wants the Pharisees to understand the danger they were in if they did not repent.

Scripture Passage:

Read: [Luke 16:1-31](#)

Read the Following Quote:

"When you read our Lord's sermons and parables, you are struck with the fact that He had a great deal to say about material wealth. He ministered to people who, for the most part, were poor and who thought that acquiring more wealth was the solution to all their problems. Jesus was not blind to the needs of the poor and by His example and teaching, He encouraged His followers to share what they had with others. The early church was a fellowship of people who willingly shared their possessions with the less fortunate." [Warren Wiersbe](#)

Questions:

Define poverty. Are we rich or poor? What is our responsibility the poor today?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Luke 16:1-31](#)

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager [Luke 16:1-15](#)

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1. What is the problem that the owner has? What does the owner plan to do? Do you think the owner is being fair? (Verses 1,2)

2. Describe the character of the manager. What is he worried about? How does he plan to protect himself? Have you ever met someone like this? Do you admire him? Why or why not? (verses 3-4)

3. How does the manager make deals with the rich man's debtors? Does this seem wise to you? What would you have done? What does the rich man think? Does this seem wise to you? Do you think this parable is just about money or all our resources?

4. How would you have reacted if you were the owner? Have you ever been tricked out of money? What did you say or do? Are you surprised that Jesus tells this story? Why do you think that Jesus told this story?

5. Discuss Jesus' comment in verse 13. Describe ways that we serve the wrong master. How can we avoid serving money?

6. How did the Pharisees who were listening react? What does it mean to sneer? Have you ever been sneered at? How did you react?

7. What does the way a person behaves with their money tell you about their character? Why is important what God knows?

Interlude About Marriage and Divorce, Read [Luke 16:16-18](#)

8. Is the gospel of the kingdom of God being preached where you live? What about in your homeland? What might it mean that "everyone is forcing their way into it"?

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9. What does verse 18 tell you about God's view of marriage? Why do you think divorce is so common? How can we protect our marriages and prevent divorce?
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The Rich Man & Lazarus, Read [Luke 16:19-31](#)

10. Who are the two principal characters in this story? Describe how they are different. What emotions do you feel when you read about them? (Verses 19-21)
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11. What happened to the two men? Describe the locations they now find themselves in. (verses 22-24) Do their locations surprise you? What do you think the Pharisees thought?
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12. Does this story illustrate the previous story? How? What is Jesus telling us about the rich and the poor? What do we need to change? What does this story suggest about how we invest our money?
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13. Can the rich man and Lazarus communicate? Who does the rich man communicate with? What adjectives can you use to describe the rich man's feelings? How could the rich man have prevented arriving in Hades? Do we have a responsibility to share the gospel with the rich? What about the poor?
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Suggested Prayer: *Heavenly Father, help us to be wise in the way we use our resources, both financial and spiritual. Teach us to be caring towards those who are less well off than we are and grant us the wisdom to know how best we can help. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

For Further Reading:

[The Parable of the Shrewd Manager](#)

[What Should We Learn from Lazarus and the Rich Man?](#)

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