**Everyday Stories of Jesus – Lk. 16:13 - Stewardship**

**Focal Truth: Believer’s make friends in heaven when they give faithfully to the Lord**

**Jesus tells this story to his disciples to teach how to manage & use their money**

**It is the story of a sinful, dishonest manager who uses the owners riches for his own purposes**

How do you use your money? Do you serve your money like a god?

Do you ever think that God is the one who has blessed you with your money & riches?

Did you know God is the owner of everything – people are managers of his goods, property, money?

**Observations**

1. **The world practices dishonest shrewdness with their wealth for selfish purposes 16:1 – 8**
2. The unrighteous manager squandered the money of the owner & was fired 16:1-2

The prodigal son squandered all his father’s money – Rich farmer built bigger barns

1. The unrighteous manager dishonestly made deals with the owner’s creditors to reduce their debts 16:3 -4
2. He dishonestly made new deals with debtors to make friends
3. He dishonestly led creditors to lie about their real debts to the owner to gain favor
4. He dishonestly used the new debt agreements to gain favor & support of debtors for himself
5. The manager was wasteful in his management of his owner’s riches
6. The manager was unfaithful in his management of his owner’s – financial contracts
7. The manager was deceitful in his management to the owner for collecting debts
8. The manager was **self – serving – he was out to protect & care for himself!**

***16:4 – when I am removed from management people will welcome me into their homes -* Welcome = to welcome or receive a friend like family**

Pr. 19 – *Wealth adds many friends*

 **Consider**

1. The unrighteous manager reveals the worlds way of using money for selfish dishonest purposes – “what’s in it for me?”
2. 1 Tim. 6:7 – *we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either*
3. 1 Tim. 6:9 – 10 - *those who want to get rich fall into temptation & a snare & many foolish & harmful desires which plunge men into ruin & destruction. For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil*
4. Ecc. 5:10 – *he who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity*
5. **Believer’s must faithfully give their wealth for eternal purposes – 16:9 - 10**

*I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fail, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much, and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*

1. Believer’s make friends in heaven when they faithfully give to the Lord

*Giving to the work of the gospel makes friends in heaven!*

*Giving money for gospel purposes leads to more friends in heaven!*

*Giving to the work of gospel leads to thanks in heaven!*

 **Thank you for giving to the Lord! I am a life that’s been changed!**

1. Believer’s store up riches in heaven as they give to the Lord

Matt. 6:19 -20 – *do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth& rust destroys, & where thieves break in & steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven*

Lk. 12:33 – *sell your possessions & give to charity, make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfading treasure in heaven, where no their comes near nor moths destroys.*

1. Believers are rewarded in heaven as they faithfully give to the Lord

*they will receive you into the eternal dwellings – receive = welcome*

1. Believers are faithful in their management of God’s gift of riches to them

The unrighteous manager was not faithful in his management of his owner’s riches

*Believers faithfully carefully manage the goods, property & money God’s gives them*

1. Believers are faithful in their giving of their riches to the work of the gospel

**Consider – Jesus asks believers to evaluate their giving to God**

1. 16:11 – *if therefore you not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?*
2. 16:12 – *if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another’s who will give you that which is your own?*

**Unfaithful use of money – wasteful spending, excessive spending, selfish spending**

**godless spending, lack of giving to God & others**

1. **Believers serve God not their wealth – 16:13**

*No servant can serve two masters, either he will hate the one & love the other, or else he will be devoted to one & despise the other. You cannot serve God & wealth*

1. Believers flee the practice of serving their wealth & serve God in their giving

*Serving your money is spending your life working to make money just to have more money*

*Serving your money is placing your confidence in money not in God who gives you money*

*Serving your money is never being satisfied with how money you have – for some Today you should ask yourself these questions as a believer!*

**How much money is enough money?**

**How will I use my money for the gospel?**

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **Never forget that God is the maker & owner of everything!**

Ps. 115:15 – *the Lord is the maker of heaven & earth*

1. **Your wealth is a blessing of God**

Pr. 10:23 – *it is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich*

1. **Serve the Lord by giving to the Lord**

1 Tim. 6:18 -19 0 *instruct the rich, to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous & ready to share, storing up for the themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed*

1. **Faithful giving brings eternal friendships in heaven!**

*No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one & love the other, or else he will be devoted to one & despise the other.* ***You cannot serve God & wealth***

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**