

Faithful in a very little

Luke 16:1-16 – Pastor Todd Dugard // April 1-2, 2017

Open Up

Have you ever been left alone to manage something that you did not know how to take care of? What happened? Would you have done better if you had clear instructions?

“There is, perhaps, no more reliable barometer of your spiritual health than how you earn, save, spend, and give away your money.” – Pastor Todd

Dig In

- Why did Jesus say we should manage money with an eye on developing friendships? (Luke 16:9)
- Why is the manager’s failure to settle financial accounts considered a waste of his master’s possessions (Luke 16:1)?

The shrewd manager used his last days to reduce the debt burden on others and opened the door to new means of financial support at the same time.

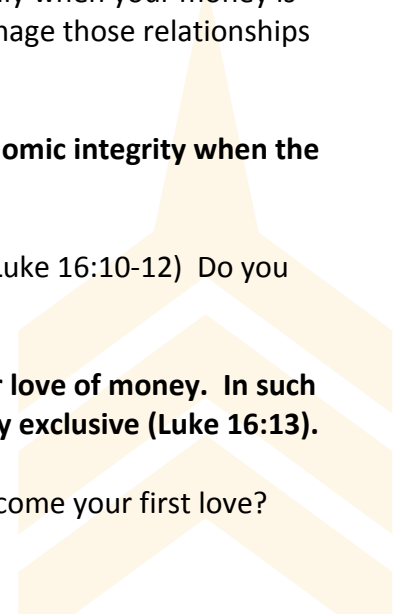
- How might we turn a personal financial crisis into an opportunity to demonstrate wisdom about the value of relationships?
- Which of your current relationships will you need to rely on financially when your money is gone or runs low temporarily? (Luke 16:4) How do you want to manage those relationships knowing that “nothing lasts forever”?

Unfortunately, it’s common in our society to show leniency regarding economic integrity when the amounts of money involved are relatively small.

- How does Jesus teaching challenge our society’s view on integrity? (Luke 16:10-12) Do you manage yourself according to Jesus’ teaching about integrity?

It’s possible to use a shallow layer of righteous activity to conceal a deeper love of money. In such cases you are not following Christ (Luke 16:14). The two ideas are mutually exclusive (Luke 16:13).

- How do you set up your financial situation so that money doesn’t become your first love?



Break Out!

While this has been a discussion about money, the manager was commended because he kept his eye on the more important resource of relationships. Money issues can come between people. Economic pressures and opportunities can draw us away from serving Christ. We are not shrewd if we refuse or remain ignorant of opportunities to leverage money to further his eternal purposes.

Use this break out to pray about personal relationships that are upset because of the wrong view of money. Be honest about your goals in managing money – do you have eternal relationship with God in perspective with every dollar you’ve been asked to manage?

Sermon Outline:

1 crisis that everyone will face... (16:1-2)

- Nothing in this life lasts forever

2 possible fixes... (16:3-8a)

- Foolishly waste your possessions on temporal pleasure
- Wisely invest your possessions in future glory

3 ways to get it right... (16:8b-9)

- Imitate the shrewdness of the world (16:8b)
- Bless others with what you have (16:9a)
- Watch for the eternal ROI (16:9b)

4 values undergirding it all... (16:10-13)

- God cares about the small stuff and so should you (16:10)
- Salvation is authenticated by how you handle money (16:11)
- Everything you own actually belongs to God (16:12)
- God won't compete with money for your affection (16:13)

