



*Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship*

*"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28*

## ***"True Riches"***

### ***Luke 16:1-18***

September 17, 2023

#### **Luke 16:1-18**

- 1 Now He was also saying to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager was reported to him as squandering his possessions.
- 2 "And he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.'
- 3 "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; I am ashamed to beg.
- 4 'I know what I shall do, so that when I am removed from the management people will welcome me into their homes.'
- 5 "And he summoned each one of his master's debtors, and he began saying to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'
- 6 "And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' And 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?' And he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'
- 8 "And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.
- 9 "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings.
- 10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

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- Focus goes over to the disciples.
- Parable – 2 main characters – 1. a wealthy businessman/owner. 2. His General Manager. Very straight-up parable.
- Someone reported to the owner that his GM was doing a horrible job of managing.
- He calls in the GM and demands answers. Then he fires him. "Clean out your desk, your finished."

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A man will expend 20 x's the amount of time and money and effort on his earthly investments than he does on his eternal investments.

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- But the GM is still employed for a short time. Time to ponder, "What am I going to do?"
  - What are my options? 1. No physical labor job. 2. Not going to beg.
  - So he comes up with this scheme. Discount the company's accounts receivable – make friends – that opens doors.
  - Result: The owner praised the GM for being shrewd. This did not excuse his unrighteous acts, for which he wasn't praised.
  - The GM used resources at his disposal.
  - But here is the lesson: The world is better at their investment strategies than believers are. They spend much more time at it than believers do. Maybe we need spiritual financial advisors who can tell us good ministries to invest in. So if ungodly, sometimes corrupt people, do it for temporal gain, how much more should believers do it for eternal gain. "The people of this world are much better at seeing opportunities and profiting from them, than are the children of God."
  - This is what makes this parable so powerful.

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- Someday your money will “fail” (when you die).
- Therefore use earthly wealth to make friends for eternity – they will welcome you into heaven when you arrive. Give your money to good, solid biblical ministries where people are hearing the unvarnished gospel and believers are being brought to maturity. Someday you will be welcomed by them.

“faithful in little” – our time here on earth.

“faithful in much” – our time in eternity.

- Think deeply about this: How you spend your time and resources now on this earth will determine how (not where) you spend your time in eternity. All kinds of positions and capacities to glorify God in eternity. Not everyone will be doing the same thing.

#### 2 Cor 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- Similarly, your sinful evil life will reap the consequences of condemnation and punishment in eternity.
- Money is amoral. It can be used for good or for bad. God has entrusted you with a certain amount and expects you to be a good manager.

You are weaving in time  
what you shall wear for all of eternity.

“Make all you can,  
save all you can,  
give all you can.”

- John Wesley

#### Luke 16:1-18

11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?"

12 "And if you have not been faithful in the use of 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 else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

14 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him.

15 And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.

16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

17 "But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.

18 "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.

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- 11 - If you cannot be trusted with the stewardship of your earthly riches (money), how can you be trusted with true, spiritual riches (men's souls, missions, discipleship, spiritual leadership, and eternal riches and reward in God's heavenly kingdom)?

## 2 Cor 4:18

18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- Like "Let's make a Deal" – what you can see or what is behind the curtain. With God, what you can't see is always the best deal.
- 12 - If you are not faithful in managing God's money and possessions which belong to Him, how can you manage rewards that are yours? Those rewards are given to you, they are yours.
- 13 - Money is a master and God is a master. Do you use God to get money, or do you use money to serve God? You cannot serve both. Each demands your undivided service.

## How do you know when something "owns" you?

- When you need that "thing" as a major source of happiness or fulfillment in your life.
- When you can't imagine living without it.
- When you get angry at the thought of losing it.
- When that possession is the first thing you think about in the morning and the last thing you think about at night.
- When you find yourself thinking about it in every spare moment.
- When you are gripped with fear at the thought of losing it.
- When you find yourself bringing it up in almost every conversation.
- When you get upset if someone else touches it or comes near it.
- When you plan your schedule around it.
- When you enjoy that "thing" more than being with family and friends.
- When others warn you about your attachment to your possessions.
- When worries and concerns about your possessions crowd out the joy in your life.

- Ray Pritchard

"These two are diametrically opposed, God and money. One commands you to walk by faith, the other to walk by sight; one to be humble, the other to be proud; one to set your affection on things above, the other to set them on the things that are on the earth; one to look at the things that are unseen and eternal, the other to look at the things that are seen and temporal; one to have your conversation in heaven, the other to cleave to the dust; one to be careful for nothing, the other to be all anxiety; one to be content with such things as you have, the other enlarge your desires; one to be ready to distribute, the other to withhold; one to look at the things of others, the other to look at only one's own things; one to seek happiness in the Creator, the other to seek happiness in the creature. Is it not plain," he says, "You can't serve two such masters."

- A.W. Pink

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- Notice that even though Jesus is speaking to His disciples, the Pharisees were there listening too.
- They serve money. They love money. Religion often does.
- They don't like what Jesus is saying, and so they reject it.
- 15 – Here is self-righteous religion – to justify yourselves before men – pray, give money, wear garments, etc. – it was to impress people and it was all for show.
- It is easy to fool others, but you will not fool God.
- It is God who will be your judge, not other people.
- What people think is impressive, is detestable to God.
- They are not laying up treasures in heaven. Their hearts are here on earthly wealth.

### **Matt 6:19-21**

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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"Shall the great Judge say, when my task is through,  
That my soul had gathered some riches too?  
Or shall at the last it be mine to find  
That all I had worked for I had left behind?"

• J D Rockefeller

*The true measure of our wealth is the treasure we have in heaven.*

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- This is not another subject. This is a continuation.
- Jesus just exposed their self-righteous religion.
- Pharisees believed Jesus disrespected the Law (OT).
- They believed that what they followed was true to the OT Law. So they blew off what Jesus just said.
- The gospel is being preached and people are "being persuaded", through preaching, to enter the kingdom.
- So Jesus wants to set the record straight. He upholds the Law to the nth degree – "stroke of a letter".

### **Matt 5:18**

18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

- Easier for the entire universe to disappear than to lose a yod or a tittle.

## The Hebrew Alphabet



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- Easier for the most massive to go out of existence than for the smallest to disappear.
- The Pharisees, in contrast, are the ones breaking the Law and disrespecting it and here is how . . .

18 "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery."

- Again, this is not a new subject.
- So Jesus picks a law from the OT. They were breaking this left and right.
- How? by divorcing their wives for practically anything – burning the food, too much salt, someone else more appealing.

### Deut 24:1

1 "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house,

- This is not condoning divorce. It just saying that it happens.

18 "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.

**Matt 19:3-8**

- 3 Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"
  - 4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,
  - 5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?"
  - 6 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."
  - 7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?"
  - 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.
- So divorce was rampant among the Pharisees.
  - Everyone who divorces and remarries is breaking the Law, and there is therefore defilement everywhere.
  - Jesus is saying here to the Pharisees: "You are just a bunch of adulterers, lawbreakers. You don't uphold the Law, you break it.

**For the Jews there are 3 legitimate reasons for divorce –**

1. **Incest** (Lev. 18, 20) "marriage to a family member"
2. **Idolatry** (Ezra 10) "marriage to a worshipper of idols"
3. **Adultery** (Matt. 1:19) "marriage (betrothed) to a non-virgin"

**The Exception Clause**

Matt. 5:32; 19:9

**Matt 5:32**

32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity (immorality), makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

**Matt 19:9**

9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Matt., written to the Jews, is the only gospel that has the exception clause.

**"except for immorality"**

**πορνεία** - immorality, fornication, **incest, idolatry, adultery.**

**μοιχεία** – adultery.

**Marriages were immoral if they involved:**

1. **Incest** (Lev. 18, 20) "marriage to a family member"

**Lev 18:1-18**

- 1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,
- 2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'I am the Lord your God.
- 3 'You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes.
- 4 'You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes, to live in accord with them; I am the Lord your God.
- 5 'So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the Lord.
- 6 'None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am the Lord.
- 7 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother; you are not to uncover her nakedness.
- 8 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.
- 9 'The nakedness of your sister, either your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether born at home or born outside, their nakedness you shall not uncover.

- 10 'The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for their nakedness is yours.
- 11 'The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, born to your father, she is your sister, you shall not uncover her nakedness.
- 12 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's blood relative.
- 13 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's blood relative.
- 14 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother; you shall not approach his wife, she is your aunt.
- 15 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness.
- 16 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.
- 17 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; they are blood relatives. It is lewdness.
- 18 'You shall not marry a woman in addition to her sister as a rival while she is alive, to uncover her nakedness.

- 24 'Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled.
- 25 'For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants.
- 26 'But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments and shall not do any of these abominations, neither the native, nor the alien who sojourns among you
- 27 (for the men of the land who have been before you have done all these abominations, and the land has become defiled);
- 28 so that the land will not spew you out, should you defile it, as it has spewed out the nation which has been before you.
- 29 'For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do so shall be cut off from among their people.
- 30 'Thus you are to keep My charge, that you do not practice any of the abominable customs which have been practiced before you, so as not to defile yourselves with them; I am the Lord your God.'"

## **Leviticus 18:6-18**

Intercourse is forbidden -

- (1) with a mother
- (2) with a step-mother
- (3) with a sister or half-sister
- (4) with a granddaughter, the daughter of either son or daughter
- (5) with the daughter of a step-mother
- (6) with an aunt, the sister of either father or mother
- (7) with the wife of an uncle on the father's side
- (8) with a daughter-in-law
- (9) with a sister-in-law, or brother's wife
- (10) with a woman and her daughter, or a woman and her granddaughter
- (11) with two sisters at the same time

## **Lev 20:14-21**

- 14 'If there is a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, so that there will be no immorality in your midst.
- 15 'If there is a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal.
- 16 'If there is a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.
- 17 'If there is a man who takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace; and they shall be cut off in the sight of the sons of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness; he bears his guilt.
- 18 'If there is a man who lies with a menstruous woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her flow, and she has exposed the flow of her blood; thus both of them shall be cut off from among their people.
- 19 'You shall also not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for such a one has made naked his blood relative; they will bear their guilt.
- 20 'If there is a man who lies with his uncle's wife he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; they will bear their sin. They will die childless.
- 21 'If there is a man who takes his brother's wife, it is abhorrent; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They will be childless.



## 2. **Idolatry** (Ezra 10) “marriage to a worshipper of idols”

### **Deut 7:1-4**

1 "When the Lord your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you,

2 and when the Lord your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them.

3 "Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons.

4 "For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you.

## 3. **Adultery** (Matt. 1:19) “marriage (betrothed) to a non-virgin”

### **Matt 1:18-19**

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, **planned to send her away secretly.**

### **Ezra 9:10-14**

10 "Now, our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments,

11 which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from end to end and with their impurity.

12 'So now do not give your daughters to their sons nor take their daughters to your sons, and never seek their peace or their prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good things of the land and leave it as an inheritance to your sons forever.'

13 "After all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and our great guilt, since You our God have required us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us an escaped remnant as this,

14 shall we again break Your commandments and intermarry with the peoples who commit these abominations?

### **Ezra 10:10-11**

10 Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have been unfaithful and have married foreign wives adding to the guilt of Israel.

11 "Now therefore, make confession to the Lord God of your fathers and do His will; and **separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives.**"

### **Rom 7:2-3**

2 For the married woman is **bound by law to her husband while he is living**; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

3 **So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.**

## 1 Cor 7:10-15

10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, **that the wife should not leave her husband**

11 (**but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband**), and that **the husband should not divorce his wife.**

12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.

13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

15 **Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave;** the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

## Application

1. Do you work as hard on the use of your material wealth and your possessions and your money for eternal purposes as you do for temporal ones? That's the question. Do you have an eternal perspective? Is that where you're investing your resources?
2. Who is your master – God or money?
3. Do you uphold the supremacy of God's Word?