

## How to Manage & Invest Your Money - Luke 16:10-15.

### Introduction

University parallels

Experiences of University: 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 3<sup>rd</sup> year

I've had first hand experience in having much and having very little but the Principles of managing your money applies to all Christians without compromise.

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### Verses 1-9

1 Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 2 So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

3 "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— 4 I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

5 "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

6 " 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied.

"The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.'

7 "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?'

" 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied.

"He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

8 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

### The Shrewd Manager

The Rich man represents the governing world system.

The Manager represents the Believer.

The believer is working under the governing system of the world.

1. Accusation of wasting the money. (Not using it for the profit of the Rich man)
2. He realises his job will soon be over (The believers life on earth soon be finished)
3. He invests in his future (the age to come)
4. The master's compliment (the world acknowledges the wisdom in investing in your own future)

- Jesus' message of gaining friends in the age to come with earthly money. Who are these friends and how do you gain them?

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### Verses 10-12

10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

### The value system of God

(verses 10) 'Little' here refers to money. Whether it's plenty or small money, as long as it's from the world it is referred to as 'little'. And 'much' refers to true riches (which are found in Christ.) – God values worldly wealth as a little thing.

(verse 11) Your attitude towards money is directly linked to your spiritual life.

(verse 12) because of our unfaithfulness in the area of money, we haven't been able to possess what God has in store for us. All spiritual things are ours as Paul says, but we can't access our OWN

property and inheritance in Christ simply because we can't handle the money of this world (someone else's property)

### **What is worldly wealth?**

Money, assets, fame and fortune. To be rich in this world can also symbolically mean to be attached to anything pertaining to this temporary world other than the eternal God.

### **What is True Riches?**

Christ and everything that comes from him (e.g. fruit of the Spirit). To possess true riches (now) is to have God's life and essence formed in you in increasing measure.

*e.g. Paul learnt to thrive in much and in little - that is possessing true riches. Peace that surpasses understanding is another example of true riches.*

**Revelations 3v17** the Church of Laodicea thought they were rich...

If you haven't invested your worldly wealth in the work of the Kingdom, why are you expecting God to give you true Riches. And if you haven't put your money where your mouth is how do you expect to grow? And how do you expect to be welcomed in the age to come if you've made no friends?

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### **Verses 13-14**

13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. 15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight."

### **The Two Masters – God & Money**

#### **What does it mean to serve Money or to be mastered by money?**

- To centre your life on the pursuit of money
- You esteem or revere one man above another based on how much they earn or have.
- You find it hard to release and give, and you think of it as yours, as opposed to God's
- You chase money to the degree that you neglect your spiritual life and place God's work as secondary
- You spend most of your money on your self-centred desires (with little thought of others)
- You overly care what people think of you and your money
- You may invest in ventures that produce a return but not in people
- Like the Pharisees you sneer at Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit

#### **And what does it mean to serve God or be mastered by God?**

- To centre your life around God
- Even your pursuit of money is for the advancement of the Kingdom
- You can bless God and spiritually thrive in much and in little
- You use your money to invest in the age to come and not the appetite of the flesh
- You readily invest your money in people. For their salvation and growth
- Your chief concern is what does God think of me and the money in my possession
- You're ready to give all your money away if God says so

### **The Eyes of men and the Eyes of God**

Are we ready to see money from God's perspective or are we satisfied with seeing it the way the rest of the world see it? *What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.* Let us search our hearts, are we money driven or God driven.

Men value the worth of money and the earthly goods and the wellbeing it may bring. But as believers we must see the temporary (and eternally worthless) nature of money and in so doing invest it in something real. Trade your fake riches, (a lot or a little) for true riches which are hidden in Christ Jesus, by investing in the souls of men, the King and the Kingdom.