

## **Week 35 April 12, 2026: Luke 16, Dishonest Manager, Rich Man And Lazarus**

### **Luke 16:1-13 Parable of the Dishonest Manager**

**Luk 16:1** He(Jesus) also said (told this story, some say parable) to His disciples (the Pharisees heard also v14) "There was a certain rich man who had a steward (manager of his accounts), and an accusation (a bad report) was brought to him(rich man) that this man (manager of his accounts) was wasting his goods(squandering and not being a good steward over rich man's possessions).

**Luk 16:2** "So he(rich man) called him and said to him(his manager), 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship (or management over my accounts), for you, can no longer be steward (my manager).'

The manager was clearly guilty, because when the master released him the manager made no attempt to defend himself

Rom 14:12 So then each of us, shall give account of himself to God (believers at Judgment Seat of Christ and unbelievers at White Throne Judgement).

**Luk 16:3** "Then the steward (manager) said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master (lord, boss) is taking the stewardship (management) away from me. I cannot dig (I do not have enough strength to dig for a living); I am ashamed (or to proud) to beg.

**Luk 16:4** 'I have resolved, (I know now), what to do, that when I am put out, of the stewardship (removed from management), they (who owe debts) may receive me into their houses (welcome me, if I need a place to stay, as a return favor for cutting their debt).'

**Luk 16:5** "So he (steward, manager) called every one of his master's debtors, to him (one by one he invited those who owed money), and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?''

**Luk 16:6** "And he said, 'A hundred measures (apx. 900 gallons) of (olive) oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty (four hundred and fifty).'

The steward knowing he will lose his position, decided to use his last days to benefit his future. By reducing their debt owed to the rich man the steward would be well received by those debtors after he was no longer steward.

It is possible that the steward (manager) was releasing the debtors from unlawful interest he had added to their bill for personal gain.

**Luk 16:7** "Then he (steward, manager) said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures (one kor equals approx. 6.5-10 bushels) of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.

**Luk 16:8** "So the master commended the unjust steward (not for being dishonest, but) because he had dealt shrewdly (making a smart, decisive move preparing for future benefits). For the sons of this world (unbelievers) are more shrewd in their generation, than the sons of light (believers who are to be focused on future benefits, spiritual rewards, but are often passive and less intentional). (You could say, people in worldly matters often show more urgency and wisdom in worldly matters, than believers do about eternal matters).

This passage is often misunderstood and it is not saying be dishonest and manipulate others to benefit yourself

What the master is saying, be intentional and wise about your future. Believers should be alert and intentional about spiritual and eternal rewards. Use money now with an eye to eternity our eternal home.

Mat 6:20 "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Col 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Col 3:4 When Christ who is our life appears (second coming), then you also will appear with Him in glory.

**Luk 16:9** "And I say to you (learn this lesson), make friends for yourselves (for eternity, by supporting people) by unrighteous mammon (unrighteous wealth probably refers to the way in which it was acquired), that when you fail (and fall) (your earthly possessions are gone), they may receive you into an everlasting home (your eternal dwelling place).

Riches promise but never fulfil the heart of man.

**Luk 16:10** "He who is faithful in what is least (very little), is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust (dishonest) in what is least (very little), is unjust (dishonest) also in much (greater responsibilities).

Chuck Smith Quote

What am I doing with what God has entrusted into my care?

1. Am I using it wisely?
2. Am I using it for the kingdom of God or for the kingdom of self?
3. One day, accounting will be given. You can't escape it.

**Luk 16:11** "Therefore if you have not been faithful (trustworthy) in the unrighteous mammon (handling worldly wealth which they worship, which you can use for Godly

purposes), who will commit to your trust (who will entrust you with), the true riches (of heaven)?

So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

**Luk 16:12** "And if you have not been faithful in what is (property of) another man's (whether God or man, we are called to be a good steward), who will give you, what is your own

And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property, when you can't be trusted? No one. We must remember all our riches ultimately belong to God, and we must see that we are managing His resources properly.

Luk 19:17 And he(Jesus) said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'

Mat 25:21 (Jesus said)"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

1Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pet 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

**Luk 16:13** "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal (or devoted) to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (money, wealth or earthly possessions of any kind, which can be personified as an object of worship)

Don't trust and rely on anything, instead of or in place of God. Put our trust in God alone? When God speaks respond by faith and His grace.

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

**Luke 16:14-18 Christ Warns the Pharisees**

**Luk 16:14** Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things (Jesus taught), and they(Pharisees) derided (sneered & ridiculed) Him(Jesus).

Pharisees lovers of money, take widows houses

**Mat 23:14 (Jesus said)"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses (you shamelessly cheat widows out of their property), and for a pretense (pretend to be righteous by) make long prayers. Therefore, you will receive greater condemnation.**

**Luk 16:15 And He(Jesus) said to them(Pharisees), "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts (motivation & thoughts). For what is highly esteemed (value highly) among men is an abomination (utterly detestable) in the sight of God.**

**Psa 7:9 Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.**

**Luk 16:16 "The (writings of the) law and the prophets were until John (John the Baptist). Since that time (the good news of) the kingdom of God has been preached (continually proclaimed), and everyone is pressing (forcefully urged) into it.**

**The ministry of John the Baptist concludes with a long history of prophecy that promised the coming of the Messianic kingdom.**

**Correlation passage:**

**Mar 1:14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee (and began His Galilean ministry), preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,**

**Mar 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."**

**Luk 16:17 "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle (one dot, one tiny stroke of a letter) of the Law (God's Word) to fail (and become void).**

**Correlation passage:**

**Isa 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."**

**Isa 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

**Luk 16:18 "Whoever divorces (or sends away) his wife, and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced (or sent away) from her husband, commits adultery.**

**Jesus' command here refers to the one who divorces his wife without Biblical cause and marries another.**

**1Cor 7:10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband.**

**1Cor 7:11** But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.

**Jesus taught that sexual immorality was acceptable grounds for divorce**

**Adultery, Sexual immorality**

**Mat 19:9** "And I (Jesus) say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality (**fornication**), and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery (also Mat 5:31-32).

**Apostle Paul added that desertion by an unbelieving spouse was also an acceptable reason**

**Abandonment**

**1Cor 7:15** But if the unbeliever departs (if a spouse leaves and refuses to remain in the marriage), let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases (as far as marriage covenant). But God has called us to peace.

**Luke 16:19-31 Rich Man and Lazarus**

**Luk 16:19** "There was a certain rich man who was clothed (consistently) in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously (feasted & joyously lived in luxury) every day.

Jesus did not present this story as a parable, and in no other parable did Jesus actually name an individual (as the poor man is named, Lazarus). Many believe Jesus gave us an actual case history, one He knew from His eternal perspective.

**Luk 16:20** "But there was a certain beggar (very poor man) named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate (home of the rich man),

**Luk 16:21** "desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover (in addition) the dogs came and licked his sores.

**Luk 16:22** "So it was that the (poor) beggar died, and (his spirit) was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom (paradise). The rich man also died and was buried.

**Chuck Smith quote from 3,000 Series**

1. Notice there is no mention of his being buried.

a. When the poor people died, they would quite often just take them down to the valley of Hinnom and throw them in the fires that were constantly burning down there. Cremate them.

d. But "the angels carried him to"; you see, death wasn't the end.

**Luk 16:23** "And being in torments in Hades (the place of the dead), he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom (by his side, aka paradise).

Lazarus was welcomed into the fellowship of other believers already in heaven, particularly Abraham, the father of the Jewish people. Hades, the place of the wicked, the

dead, described as a place of torment. Both believers and unbelievers have a conscious awareness of their eternal status and enter at once into either suffering or blessing.

### Quote from David Guzik on Blue Letter bible

From this story of Jesus, we find some hints regarding the world beyond as it existed in the past and as it exists now. From Jesus' description, one may say that at that time — before the finished work of Jesus on the cross — that the spirit or soul of the human dead went to a place called Hades. Some in Hades rested in comfort; others suffered under torments of fire.

ii. **Hades** is a Greek word, but it seems to carry much the same idea as Sheol, a Hebrew word with the idea of the “place of the dead.” Sheol has no direct reference to either torment or eternal happiness. The idea of Sheol is often simply “the grave” and the understanding of the afterlife in the Old Testament is much less clear than in the New Testament.

iii. **Hades** is technically not hell, or what is also known as the Lake of Fire. That place is called Gehenna, a Greek word borrowed from the Hebrew language. In Mark 9:43-44, Jesus spoke of hell (gehenna), a Greek translation of the Hebrew “Valley of Hinnom,” a place outside Jerusalem’s walls desecrated by Molech worship and human sacrifice (2 Chronicles 28:1-3; Jeremiah 32:35). It was also a garbage dump where rubbish and refuse were burned. The smoldering fires and festering worms of the Valley of Hinnom made it a graphic and effective picture of the fate of the damned. This place is also called the “lake of fire” in Revelation 20:13-15, prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

iv. **Hades** is something of a waiting place until the day of final judgment (Revelation 20:11-13). Yet since Jesus' finished work on the cross, there is no waiting for believers who die; they go directly to heaven, to the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6-8). It is reasonable to think that when Jesus visited **Hades** as part of His redemptive work (Acts 2:24-27, Acts 2:31) and when Jesus preached in Hades (1 Peter 3:18-19), that Jesus set the captives in Hades free (Ephesians 4:8-9, Isaiah 61:1). Jesus' work and preaching offered salvation for those like Lazarus, who in faith awaited it (Hebrews 11:39-40), and it also sealed the condemnation of the wicked and unbelieving.

**Luk 16:24 "Then he(rich man) cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented (in severe agony) in this flame.'**

### Jesus warns of hell and its fire

**Mar 9:42** "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.

**Mar 9:43** "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched--

**Mar 9:44** "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

**Mar 9:45** "And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched--

**Mar 9:46** "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

**Mar 9:47** "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire--

**Mar 9:48** "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

**Luk 16:25** "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things (comforts and delights), and likewise Lazarus evil things (discomforts and distresses); but now he is comforted and you are tormented (great anguish).

**Son:** It seems he was physically a child of Abraham, but He never believed by faith and became a spiritual son (Rom 2:28-29; 4:1-3, Gal 3:29).

**Luk 16:26** 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed (uncrossable separation, chasm), so that those who want to pass (cross over) from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass (cross over) to us.'

No second chances, the fate of the dead is unchangeable.

**Luk 16:27** "Then he(rich man) said, 'I beg you therefore, father (Abraham), that you would send him(Lazarus) to my father's house,

**Luk 16:28** 'for I have five brothers, that he(Lazarus) may testify to (and warn) them, lest they, also come to this place of torment.'

**Luk 16:29** "Abraham said to him(rich man), 'They have Moses and the prophets (the Scriptures); let them hear them.'

Your brothers have the Scriptures given by Moses and the writings of the Prophets; let them listen to them. Later Luke will point out that OT Scriptures, Moses and the Prophets all testify to Jesus as the true Messiah.

**Luk 16:30** "And he(rich man) said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent (change their old way of thinking and turn to God).'

## Lazarus Raised from the Dead

Jhn 11:38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb (where Lazarus was). It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

Jhn 11:39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

Jhn 11:43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Jhn 11:44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

Jhn 12:9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He(Jesus) was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He(Jesus) had raised from the dead.

Jhn 12:10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also,

Jhn 12:11 because on account of him(Lazarus) many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

**Luk 16:31 "But he(father Abraham) said to him(rich man), 'If they do not hear (the messages of) Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded (or convinced) though one rise from the dead.' "**

**The scriptures, conscience, creation has given sufficient light to show them their need to repent. No miracle will convince a person who refuses to believe.**

**Jhn 5:42 (Jesus said)"But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.**

**Jhn 5:43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.**

**Jhn 5:44 "How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?**

**Jhn 5:45 "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you--Moses, in whom you trust.**

**Jhn 5:46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.**

**Jhn 5:47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"**

**End**

**Extra Scriptures and Charts:**

## Examples of Putting Your Treasures in Heaven

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Short Phrase</u>
Eternal focus	Matthew 6:19–21	Store treasures, where it lasts
Right priorities	Colossians 3:2–3	Set your mind on heaven
Faithful works rewarded	1 Corinthians 3:12–14	God rewards what endures
Giving to others	Luke 12:33–34	Give → gain heavenly treasure
Using money wisely	Luke 16:9	Use wealth for eternity
Giving to the church	Malachi 3:10	Honor God with giving
Supporting ministry	Matthew 10:41–42	Share in their reward
Ministry partnership	Philippians 4:17	Fruit credited to you
Volunteering / serving	1 Peter 4:10	Use your gifts to serve
Serving faithfully	Hebrews 6:10	God remembers your service
Helping the poor	Proverbs 19:17	Lending to the Lord, He will repay
Helping “the least”	Matthew 25:40	Serving others = serving Christ
Cup of water	Matthew 10:42	Small acts count
Hospitality	Hebrews 13:2	Welcome others
Prayer	Matthew 6:6	Secret prayer rewarded
Seeking God	Hebrews 11:6	God rewards seekers
Perseverance	Galatians 6:9	Don’t quit—harvest coming
Generosity	2 Corinthians 9:6	Sow more → reap more
Obedient work	Colossians 3:23–24	Work for the Lord
Self-denial	Matthew 16:24–27	Lose now → gain later
Eternal reward	Revelation 22:12	Jesus brings reward

## Practical ways

1) Consistent, sincere prayer

Matthew 6:6 “Pray... in secret, and your Father... will reward you.”

2) Love people (especially the overlooked)

Matthew 25:40 “Whatever you did for one of the least... you did for Me.”

This includes: Poor, Widows, Children, The hurting, less fortunate

3) Generous giving (without seeking attention)

Matthew 6:3–4 “Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...”

Give quietly → God rewards openly

4) Seek God first (prioritize eternity)

Matthew 6:33 “Seek first the kingdom of God... all these things shall be added to you.”

5) Walk by faith and be faithful in everyday life

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please God ...

Luke 16:10 “Whoever is faithful in little is faithful in much.”

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