Luke 15-16

Ch 15

Theme – The Lost is Found Chapter!; Pharisees & Scribes complain that sinners are coming to Jesus; Parable of the Lost Sheep; "Rejoice with me!" (joy over the one who is found is so great, it must be shared with others); Parable of the Lost Coin; like shepherd, woman will not stop looking until coin is found; like shepherd, "Rejoice with me!" (v6 & 9); The Prodigal Son (prodigal derived from Latin word meaning "wasteful"); younger son demands his portion; father acquiesces; younger son wastes his money; famine occurs while younger son in vulnerable position; younger son hits rock bottom (to Jewish audience); younger son comes to his senses; younger son repents; "BUT THE FATHER SAID…"; father restores the younger son to his place; household celebrates that son is alive and found; older son returns from working in field; older son is angry that younger son's return is being celebrated; father goes out to plead with older son to come in and celebrate; older son yells at father (uses no term of respect); resentful that father doesn't facilitate a celebration for older son & friends (doesn't desire fellowship with father); refers to his brother as "this son of yours"; father confirms the faithfulness of older son & reassures that the younger son's return does not reduce the portion belonging to the older son; father refers to the younger son as "this brother of yours"; father explains "We had to celebrate" because your brother has been found

Ch 16

Theme – Overall chapter teaches that money is a tool to bless others; not the point in & of itself; Parable of the Unjust Steward; world is wise enough to recognize their situation & use all of their resources to advance their position; Christians should recognize that worldly resources are fleeting & use all resources to bless others & glorify God; if we cannot wisely handle worldly resources, who will entrust us with true riches; cannot serve two masters (either God will tell us how to treat money or money will tell us how to treat God); Pharisees mock the Lord over His teaching on money; Lord knows they are lovers of money; points out that they justify themselves, but their standards of righteousness are detestable to God; Pharisees have been exposed to Law, Prophets, & Gospel, have seen people responding to Jesus, & will be held accountable to the righteous standard because it does not pass away; brief statement on divorce (possibly an application of v13?); the Rich Man & Lazarus (true story); Rich Man's condition & what Lazarus endured; dogs kinder to Lazarus than Rich Man; both pass away (only angels tend to Lazarus at his death); Lazarus in Abraham's Bosom (Lk 13:28); Rich Man in Place of Torment; Rich Man asks Abraham to make Lazarus serve him; Abraham refuses (you knew his condition before & didn't help, plus a chasm between us cannot be crossed); Rich Man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn the Rich Man's five brothers; Abraham refuses because they have Moses (the Law) & the Prophets (same as v16-17)