

## Biblical Principles of Money (Part 2) – Lk 16:1-13

Thanks; Really appreciate that; Especially after being away for a few weeks; Coming home is always good; And if you're visiting with us for the first time, welcome We're glad you're here, and trust you'll be built up and encouraged before you leave Especially as we open God's Word

- But before we go there, I want to take about 10 or 15 minutes to recap some things, and share some thoughts with you from the past few weeks Starting with our Go Conference; I was so encouraged to see and hear of so many of you who served, and prayed, and responded And I don't want that to go by the wayside People need the gospel; And we're all called to go – it's just a matter of where Neighborhood, city, nation, or world; Starting right here with the people you know

So let me encourage you to follow through on the impulses you received; And the commitments you made; Don't let the things you heard go in 1 ear and out the other Start exploring; Chart a course; Get in touch with Doug Rowland, our Pastor or Outreach Ministries, and start praying B/c God's still looking for worshippers, and it's our responsibility to reach them That was the Go Conference

- Meanwhile, Becky and I were on a 2 week road trip, where I was able to preach at HBC North Indy, worship at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Virginia . . . And then gather with 1500 other leaders and pastors at Harvest University in Chicago Harvest U is the annual gathering of our Fellowship, HBF – for the purpose of encouragement, learning, and worship; And it was a phenomenal time Quite possibly the best we've had

There's a unity and sweetness of spirit in our Fellowship that beats all; Along with a passion to see the gospel advanced more and more And God's using it to build his church both here and around the world; From Nepal and India, to right here in our own back yard; Often times reclaiming lost ground Like the new **church building** this morning for HBC West Des Moines Once used as a wedding chapel, it was closed as a result of the owner's refusal to accommodate same-sex marriages; But today, it opened as Harvest Bible Chapel And they need our prayers; It's a great opportunity, and a battle

“So Lord, would you make your presence known there? Would you enable that church to shine your light brighter and brighter? Would you protect them from those in opposition to your Word? Fill them with your Spirit and do more than we could ask or imagine”\*\*\*\*

- In addition to that, I preached and led the service at HBC Clear Lake last week, in the shock of their heart break John Tank is the SP there, and his 15 year-old son, Daniel, took his own life a week ago Saturday morning; As far as anyone can tell . . . It was a moment of weakness and frustration, where he shot himself in their home He wasn't depressed; He didn't struggle socially; And there wasn't some dark sin in his life; In fact, he was a vibrant follower of Christ He just had a momentary lapse with a gun at his disposal, and made a very poor and very permanent decision

And I want you to know, that while suicide is not an *unforgivable* sin, it is a sin; Suicide is wrong; And he'll have to give an account for it before God himself on Judgment Day Including the devastating effect it had on his family and friends

But that's not so say that his forgiveness is at risk; It's not; God will indeed wipe away his tears; B/c *nothing* can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus; Nothing Daniel's salvation is secure; But his grief, and remorse, and regret on Judgment Day, will make our grief pale in comparison B/c then, he's going to be standing in the shadow of God's infinite holiness

Suicide may be a temporary way out, but in the end, it's a bad trade; Even for a believer B/c it rejects the value of life that God holds so dear, it defies the sanctity of life he loves, and it rebels against his prerogative to give and take it All of which he's going to have to answer for; Making it a very bad trade And if you're not a follower of Jesus, it's an *infinitely* worse trade

- In light of all that, Becky and I, along with John and Jamy Cochran, went up there last Saturday and Sunday, and ministered to their family and church as best we could And I want to thank you for your prayers and support; Especially for the Tank's They continue to grieve, and will do so for some time; But their church has rallied around them, and so has our Fellowship The relationships we've forged in the furnace of ministry, has multiplied our love and solidified our commitment to one another, and it shows; And I'm grateful to be a part And thankful to represent you

But I gotta tell ya, it made me yearn to be *with* you; B/c in the midst of tragedy, there's no place like home; What we have here is special, and I praise God for it And I want you to know how very thankful I am for each and every one of you; Your love, your prayers, and your support are felt; And I'm grateful So let me pray for the Tanks, and John Cochran as he preaches up there this morning, and commit our time together to Lord

“Father, thank you for our church; Thank you for the fellowship we have, and the Fellowship of churches to whom we belong; Would you continue to be a peace and comfort to the Tank family in their time of grief? Would you begin to bring healing and restore unto them the joy of their salvation? Would you protect their church, and use this for good? Watch over John as he preaches and ministers to them this morning; For your glory”

- I'm eager to get back to our Built To Last series (**Title Slide**); Lk 16:1-13 Built to last is our theme for the year, and the point, is that when you build your life on the rock-solid truths of God's Word, it will last It will stand the test of time; And shine the light of Christ; And weather the storms of life

And to flesh out some of those truths, we're looking at what the Bible has to say about money, parenting, singleness, and marriage over the course of this year B/c even if you have it all together in those areas, chances are you know somebody who doesn't; And for most of us, it's both/and

So we started with Biblical Principles of Money; And found first of all, that . . .

**Principle #1 – Everything I have is God's**

He *made* what I have, he *gave* what I have, and he still *owns* what I have

In which case, everything in my possession is God's

**Principle #2 – It's my responsibility to be a good steward**

A good manager; Using everything I have for his kingdom, his glory, and his purposes

Not just 10%, but 100%; And not just some of the time, but all the time

**Principle #3 – How I manage my money reflects my heart**

Poor money management? Bad heart; And a bad heart affects your eternity

That was Part 1, from a parable in Mt 25 (**Summary**)

➤ Part 2 then, comes from another parable, found in Luke 16; V1-9

[1] *He also said to the disciples [his followers; as opposed to the grumbling Pharisees of chapter 15] , "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions [as in spending them frivolously, and not putting them to good use]. [2] And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.'* [3] *And 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, and I am ashamed to beg. [4] I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.'*

[5] *So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'* [6] *He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.'* 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?'* He said, *'A hundred measures of wheat.'* He said to him, *'Take your bill, and write eighty.'*

[8] *The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. [Boom; There's the bombshell] For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. [Citing one of the purposes for this parable – to point out our deficiency in this area]*

[9] *And I tell you [Jesus said; As opposed to the master in the parable], make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. That's the parable*

And if you're scratching your head at this point, take heart; B/c this is probably the stickiest parable in all the Bible; Mainly, b/c of v8-9

Where the master commended the dishonest manager . . .

And, Jesus said to *make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth*

It's a head-scratcher

➤ But it helps to understand 2 things; The 1<sup>st</sup>, from v9, is that . . .

**Unrighteous wealth does not refer to dirty money**

As in money gained through dishonest or sinful means

And I say that, b/c in v11 we're told to be *faithful* in our handling of it; Take a look

*If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? (Luke 16:11)*

Jesus is saying that we should be diligent in using *unrighteous wealth* for God's glory;

That's what it means to be *faithful* here

The implication being, that it's not dirty; Unrighteous wealth is not dirty money

Otherwise, how could you rightfully of faithfully use it for anything?

That would be like stealing from your employer, giving it to a charity, and then trying to justify it; It doesn't work; There's nothing faithful about that

So *unrighteous wealth* in this passage, is not bad; It's not dirty; It's not money gained through sinful means

It's simply an expression for the currency of this unrighteous world

That the first thing to understand

The 2<sup>nd</sup>, from v8, is that . . .

**Jesus is using a negative example to illustrate a positive attribute**

It would be like me telling you about the foolish ex-con I once mentored, to illustrate the attribute of boldness

His name was Bill; And after being out of prison for 2 years, he was doing pretty well, he was living right; Until he went back to drugs

And got so desperate for money one night, that he stole his friend's pick-up – his *friend's* pick-up; Smashed the front window of a gas station . . .

Carried off an ATM machine on a dolly, and drove away

All under the watchful eye of security cameras

Not real smart; And not a good thing to do

But it was certainly *bold*; We can at least commend him for that; For irrational courage in the face of danger; In which case, I'm using a negative example of foolishness . . .

To illustrate a positive attribute of boldness

And the same is true of this parable; It's a negative example of *dishonesty*, to illustrate the positive attribute of *shrewdness* (**Summary**); That's the 2<sup>nd</sup> thing to understand

And in doing so, in understanding those 2 thoughts, you'll not only avoid getting hung-up on v8-9, but you'll go a long way toward applying the principles in your life

➤ The first of which, comes from v3-4; And it's this . . .

**Principle #4 – A little foresight goes a long way (v3-4)**

That's the first principle of money we find here; And the 4<sup>th</sup> in our running list; A little foresight goes a long way

[3] *And 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, and I am ashamed to beg.*

[4] *I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.'* And then he did it, in v5-7

But *not* before he engaged in a little foresight; Where he did 6 things; And I don't want you to miss them; B/c they're the *keys to financial foresight*

Coming naturally to some, and painfully to others; Here's the first . . .

**1. Consider the problem** – Or as Deke Slayton, NASA's Director of Flight Crew

Operations said during the Apollo 13 mishap – "Work the problem, people"

Which is exactly what the manager did in v3

Saying to himself – *'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? What should I do in light of this massive loss of income?'*

He thought about it; He didn't go out and get drunk; Or ignore it and hope that it would go away – he considered what to do about it; That's the 1<sup>st</sup> key to financial foresight

**2. Assess your ability** – Once again, the very thing the manager did in v3b, when he thought to himself that he was *not strong enough to dig* (3b)  
*I am not strong enough to dig* he thought; And therein assessed his ability  
It does you no good to rightly consider your problem or need, if you don't accurately assess your ability to meet it  
For instance, thinking you can buy a home and support a family of 4 when you don't have the education or experience to make more than minimum wage, is a fail  
You're not accurately assessing your ability

**3. Admit your pride** – In v3b, the manager admits that he was *ashamed to beg* (3b); That there were some things he was *unwilling* to do to correct his problem  
He admitted his pride; And while this isn't an affirmation of panhandling, it is a commentary on being honest with yourself  
And getting over your unwillingness to do whatever it takes to make a living  
It's part of good financial foresight

**4. Make a plan** – In v4a, the manager *decided what to do*; He made a plan  
For most, that means making a budget; Determining how much money you *make*, and how much you're going to spend; *Before* you buy a house; And *before* you buy a car  
Before you do anything; Otherwise, you're not making a plan, it's making you  
A little foresight goes a long way

**5. Provide for your future** – Look at v4 again; *I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management* [at that point in the future], *people may receive me into their houses*. He made a plan to provide for his future  
And we ought to do the same; It's one of the purpose of this parable  
It's not the government's responsibility to provide for your future; It's not up to social service agencies, or your employer, or your church – it's up to you  
And a little forethought goes a long way to make it happen; No matter how little u make

**6. Leverage your situation** – Instead of wishing you were somewhere else, or had a different job, or were married to a different person . . .  
Leverage *your* situation; And *your* abilities; And *your* relationships  
That's what the manager did; He took stock of every means at his disposal, and every relationship he had, and made the most of them

6 keys to financial foresight; Otherwise known as financial planning  
Where you set a budget, save for the future, provide for your family, and work your plan; And before you know it, you're proving the principle . . .  
That a little foresight goes a long way

**Principle #5 – God expects me to be shrewd with my money (v8)**

Shrewd as in sharp, smart, wise, discerning; Showing intelligence, insight, and sound judgment; It's not a negative attribute or behavior . . .  
Meaning stingy or greedy or tight as we often think of it; But a positive one  
You might think of it as "street smart"  
In which case, shrewd is good; Especially with the right motives and purpose in mind

➤ And when it comes to our money, God *expects* it; V8 – *The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness*.

He actually commended it; Applauded it; Praised it  
Not his dishonesty or wastefulness, but his *shrewdness*; His street smart intelligence

And in so doing, he conveyed his expectation for us  
Like when you praise your kids for being kind; You're conveying your expectation by commending their behavior; Same thing here regarding shrewdness  
God conveys his expectation, by commending the behavior of being shrewd

➤ And then, as if that's not enough, he gives us an explicit reason to be shrewd  
Saying in v8b – *For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light*. Believers  
Implying that such a deficit shouldn't be; That believers, of all people, should be the *most* shrewd; The most perceptive; The most discerning

Why? B/c *our* veil has been lifted; *Our* eyes have been opened; *Our* mind, transformed; *Our* perspective, changed; *Our* purpose, defined; Something *unbelievers* don't have  
In which case, *our* shrewdness in dealing with money matters, should *far* exceed theirs  
In fact, God expects it

➤ Becky illustrated this to a "T" recently, while on our road trip  
We had stopped at a Tollway Oasis, and as I was coming out of the restrooms, she was talking to a woman in the parking lot who had asked her for money  
So Becky asked her why, and found out she needed gas to get somewhere  
So she walked over to the gas pump, swiped her credit card, and told her she could put \$10 in; And talked with her while she did it

And as soon as she was done, the gas station attendant starting walking out, and the woman quickly got in her car and left  
At which point he informed us that she was a scam artist, and did that all the time  
Which, as you might imagine, made us feel a bit dirty, and a little mad

But at least it was only \$10; B/c Becky was shrewd about it; She was wise, and discerning, and asked her a lot of questions; Some of which didn't feel right  
But always wanting to err on the side of generosity, she at least gave her some

That's shrewdness; And it's an attribute and behavior that God expects; In *all* our financial decisions – spending, saving, making, *and* giving (**Summary**)  
2 more principles for a life that's built to last

Prayer – Lord, use these truths to change our minds, our hearts, and our lives; And find us faithful to live them out – in our living, and our giving  
Which we do now, for your glory, and our joy

Close – Visitor Bag; Elder or Deacon