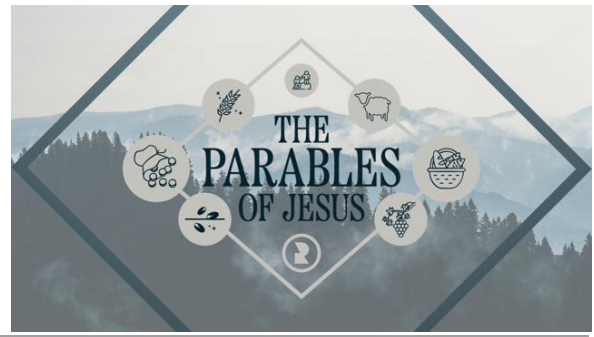


GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE
Luke 16:1–13
The Parables of Jesus - Gather



About This Week's Message:

Jesus told a surprising parable that forces us to reexamine our relationship with money. A dishonest manager gets fired—and then commended for his shrewdness. Why? Not because of his morality, but because of his strategy. Jesus isn't condoning corruption—He's confronting complacency. He's challenging His followers to steward God's resources with eternal impact in mind.

This parable is a wake-up call: if even the world knows how to use resources for a better future, how much more should the people of God?

Goals of This Week's Discussion:

- Understand our role as stewards, not owners, of everything God has entrusted to us.
- Evaluate our attitudes toward money—do we use it or does it use us?
- Respond by leveraging what we've been given for what truly lasts: God's Kingdom.

Connections with the 7 Marks of a Jesus Follower:

- Play Your Part – Generosity is one of the clearest signs we serve God, not money.
- Walk in the Word – Our window of stewardship is short. Make it count.
- Share Your Story - Use what God has given you to invest in people and eternal things.

Starter Questions:

- What was your initial reaction to this parable?
- Have you ever thought of yourself as a "manager" of God's stuff? Why or why not?

- What's one way you've seen money become a tool instead of a treasure?
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Read Luke 16:1–9 – The Shrewd Manager

16 He also said to the disciples, " There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. 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^[a] 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^[a] of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world^[a] are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth,^[a] so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

Discussion:

- Why does Jesus highlight the manager's shrewdness, not his dishonesty?
- What does this teach us about the importance of wise planning and intentionality?
- In what ways does our current culture promote either stewardship or ownership of wealth?
- Jesus says to "make friends" with unrighteous wealth. What do you think He means?

Key Insight:

Jesus isn't praising deceit—He's urging disciples to be intentional, strategic, and forward-thinking with their resources. Kingdom people should outpace the world in shrewd generosity.

Read Luke 16:10–13 – Faithful with Little, Entrusted with Much

¹⁰ "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in 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 he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

- What does it mean to be "faithful with little"?
- Why does Jesus draw a connection between money and "true riches"?
- How does money compete for the position of "master" in our lives?
- What are practical ways to make money a servant, not a master?

Key Insight:

The way we handle money is spiritual. It reveals what we trust, what we value, and who we serve.

Signs That Money Has Become a Master:

- Constant anxiety about finances
 - Difficulty giving generously
 - Obsession with status or possessions
 - Resentment toward others who have more
 - Compromise of values for financial gain
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Applying the Text:

- What resource (time, talent, treasure) have you been tempted to treat as your own instead of God's?
 - Where in your life is God inviting you to be more "shrewd" for His Kingdom?
 - What would it look like for you to take a practical step this week to steward something better?
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Practical Challenge:

- Be intentionally generous this week.
 - Give unexpectedly. Tip radically. Invest in someone eternally.
 - Treat money like a tool and let your giving reflect your trust in God, not mammon.
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Pray:

- Thank God for trusting you with His resources.
- Confess where you've let money occupy too much of your mind or heart.
- Ask God for wisdom, creativity, and courage to invest in what lasts.