**Managing Money Matters**

**Luke 16:1-13 NLT**

* **Jesus spent a lot of time talking about money and possessions because He knew that people spend a lot of time thinking about money and possessions.**
	+ **16 of the 38 parables of Jesus were concerned with how to handle money and possessions.**
	+ **In the Gospels, 1 out of 10 verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money.**
	+ **18 of the 22 chapters of the Gospel of Luke address the subject of money.**
	+ **The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions.**
* Jesus - **“***And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?”* (Luke 9:25)
* **One of Jesus’ parables called *The Shrewd Manager* explains to us the importance of being a good manager of the “wealth” that God has given to each of us.**
* *“Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.”* (Romans 14:12)
* Jesus - *“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together.”* (Matthew 25:21)
* **What does it take to be a good and godly manager?**

***GOOD MANAGERS ARE PEOPLE WHO:***

**RECOGNIZE THEY ARE MANAGERS AND NOT OWNERS**

* *“Jesus told this story to His disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money.”* (Luke 16:1)
* **The Lord owns everything and everything we have is a gift from Him.**
* *“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him.”* (Psalm 24:1)

***GOOD MANAGERS ARE PEOPLE WHO:***

**TELL THEIR MONEY WHERE TO GO**

* *“One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money.”* (Luke 16:1)
* **Budgeting is nothing more than planning where your money will go instead of wondering where it went.**
* *“Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds.”* (Proverbs 27:23)

 ***Budgeting Well Includes:***

* **GIVING TO GOD FIRST (Proverbs 3:9)**
* **PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE SECOND (Proverbs 6:6-8, 21:5, 21:20)**
* **LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS (Proverbs 11:24-28)**
* **ATTENDING TO OUR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (Luke 14:28)**

***GOOD MANAGERS ARE PEOPLE WHO:***

**LEARN TO BE RESOURCEFUL WITH WHATEVER THEY DO HAVE**

* *“The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg...The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd.”* (Luke 16:3,8)
* **Good managers have an accurate assessment of the gifts, talents, abilities and assets they have at their disposal.**
* *“After everyone was full, Jesus told His disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.” (*John 6:12-13)
* **God can do more with scraps and leftovers than people can do with the best ingredients in the world.**

***GOOD MANAGERS ARE PEOPLE WHO:***

**HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL WITH GOD’S BLESSINGS**

* Jesus - *“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?”* (Luke 16:10-12)
* **We can’t be faithful with God’s blessings if we are constantly complaining that we don’t have enough.**
* Paul - *“Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”* (Philippians 4:11-13)
* **Grateful people are faithful people.**

***GOOD MANAGERS ARE PEOPLE WHO:***

**PREPARE FOR THE NEXT LIFE WHILE THEY ARE STILL IN THIS LIFE**

* *“So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired…’And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?’”* (Luke 16:2, 11)
* **We will one day face judgment from God and He will hold us accountable and reward us based upon how we managed the resources we were given in this world.**

***GOOD MANAGERS ARE PEOPLE WHO:***

**UNDERSTAND THAT MONEY IS A CURRENCY ONLY USED IN THIS WORLD**

* Jesus - *“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”* (Luke 16:13)
* **Money is tied to this temporary world, and those who are good managers understand that the money, power and position we have in this world will not be credited to us in the next world.**
* Jesus - *“I assure you that when the...Son of Man sits upon His glorious throne…many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.”* (Matthew 19:28-30)
* **We have to realize that our future is uncertain, now is the time to get our lives in order.**
* *“So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.’* (Luke 16:2)
* **No one knows their day and time of expiration, but we can use the certainty that it will come one day to motivate us to change the way we manage what we have been given.**
* **What are some changes you need to make to how you manage the resources that God has given you?**

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* What does Luke 16:1-1 teach us about God/Jesus?
* Who is the “rich man” and who is the “manager” in Jesus’ parable in Luke 16?
* What is a key message Luke 16:1-13? There may be more than one.

**Digging Deeper:**

* Do you believe that God owns everything, including all we have? Why or why not?
* Would you consider yourself a “Good Manager” of what God has entrusted you with? Explain your response.
* What does it mean to give God your first and your best in reference to finances? (Reference Proverbs 3:9)
* In what ways may you need to adjust your budgeting to be a better manager of God’s resources?
* Why do you think so many Christians do not like to discuss what the Bible, and Jesus directly, says about money and possessions?
* How do we overcome those oppositions in our own lives, and in helping others become better “managers” of what God has entrusted us with?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?