

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

“JESUS’ TEACHING ON STEWARDSHIP”

For individual study or group discussion

Returning to the *Gospel of Luke* sermon series, we pick up where we left off in Luke 16 with the topic of stewardship. Recall from Luke 16:1-9, we examined the *Parable of the Shrewd Manager* and how Jesus commended the zeal of the manager to his disciples, encouraging them to shrewdly use material resources for eternal good. In today’s passage, **Jesus’ teaching on stewardship** instructs us that faithfulness in temporal matters reflects faithfulness in eternal matters.

Jesus calls for faithful disciples who serve him alone. (vv. 10-13)

In verses 10-13, Jesus is describing for us the importance of loyalty to him alone. We can only have one master, and he is calling us to view everything we possess in light of that truth. When love for Christ and his Kingdom grips our hearts, it changes the way we view our money and possessions. We begin to fix our eyes longingly on what is eternal. According to theologian and professor Donald Whitney, when God’s Word transforms the heart, he will ultimately transform our relationship to material possessions: *“The Gospel transforms more than a person’s relationship to God; it also transforms a person’s relationship to everything else. That’s why one of the most reliable evidences that a person has been converted is that he begins looking for ways to use his time, talent, and treasure in service to the Gospel. When a person eagerly begins to use his resources to serve and spread the Gospel, it testifies to the value he places upon the Gospel and to the fact that he treasures the God of the Gospel above all.”*¹

- Read 1 Timothy 6:9-19. Does the love of money and what this life has to offer cause your heart to wander, drawing it away from worshiping God? According to Paul, what should you pursue instead?
- If God is the true owner of all that we possess, describe what faithful stewardship should look like. (See Luke 12:35-48 and Matthew 24:45-51)

Jesus rebukes the religious in their double lives. (vv. 14-18)

In verses 14-18, Luke tells us that the Pharisees are “lovers of money” and unfaithful not only in their supervision of earthly wealth, but also in their treatment of God’s Word, their greatest treasure. The Pharisees lead double lives, disregarding God’s Word and Jesus’ authority while claiming to be obedient to the law. Jesus’ authority is established by the unchanging Word of God, and to demonstrate their double-mindedness, Jesus uses the example of divorce (v. 18).

- The communication between Jesus and the Pharisees only intensifies on his journey toward Jerusalem as he exposes their divided hearts over and over again (Luke 11:15-32, 37-54; 12:1-3). How does Jesus expose their hypocrisy in verses 14-18?
- The good news of the Kingdom of God was announced by John and personified in Jesus Christ (v. 16). How does Jesus stress the inviolability of God’s Word? (cf. Matthew 5:17-20)
- Read John 5:30-47. What particular evidence does Jesus point to as witness that he is the Son of God?
- Read Malachi 2:14-16. What is God’s view of divorce? In Matthew 5:31-32, Jesus maintains that the only grounds for divorce is sexual immorality. Why do you think Jesus uses divorce as an example to demonstrate that the Pharisees were leading double lives?

DATE: January 7, 2024

SPEAKER: Chad/John Mark

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 16:10-18

Family Dinner Table

The Divided Heart

A divided heart is not atypical to the Christian life. We long to submit to God but our hearts resist, captivated by other loves. Dutch theologian Herman Bavinck describes the human dilemma using Augustine’s famous words, *“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”* According to Bavinck, *“Augustine said that the heart of man was created for God and that it cannot find rest until it rests in his Father’s heart. Hence all men are really seeking after God, as Augustine also declared, but they do not all seek Him in the right way, nor at the right place. They seek Him down below, and He is up above. They seek Him on the earth, and He is in heaven. They seek Him afar, and He is nearby. They seek Him in money, in property, in fame, in power, and in passion; and He is to be found in the high and the holy places, and with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit (Isa. 57:15). In this, as Pascal so profoundly pointed out, consists the greatness and the miserableness of man. He longs for truth and is false by nature. He yearns for rest and throws himself from one diversion upon another. He pants for a permanent and eternal bliss and seizes on the pleasures of a moment. He seeks for God and loses himself in the creature. He is a born son of the house and he feeds on the husks of the swine in a strange land.”*²

- Read Ps. 86:11 and Jer. 32:36-41. What is the only remedy for a divided heart?

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¹Whitney, Donald. *The Gospel and Stewardship*. July 23, 2011, Ligonier Ministries. <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/gospel-and-stewardship>

²Bavinck, Herman. *The Wonderful Works of God*. 2020, Westminster Seminary Press, First Edition. 6-7