

Spending Time with Jesus in Luke 16

Don't forget to invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

First read through: Read Chapter 16 all the way through, imagining you are there.

Second read through: Look for themes and underline them in the color on your key.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through: Answer questions as you go.

Luke 16:1-9

Remember, Jesus told the 3 parables in ch. 15, which illustrated how God felt toward the lost, to the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. To whom does Jesus tell this parable at the beginning of ch. 16?

Why exactly does the master commend his dishonest manager? Because he had _____
_____ (v. 8.)

Confused? Me, too, until I heard Dr. James Tour (the Messianic Jew I mentioned before) describe this parable. The first thing we have to remember is that this is a parable, a story meant to teach, in this case, about what it means to be “people of the light” (a.k.a. followers of Jesus.)

Ok. Buckle up. Ready? The rich man in this story isn’t representing God. In fact, the rich man is just a man of this world, so obsessed with making money that he has seriously overcharged his debtors with crazy amounts of interest. The dishonest manager knows this, and that is why he is able to dismiss so much debt from the debtor’s bills. The rich man “commends” him like him saying, “Well played, Manager. I’m impressed. You’re still fired, but well played.”

What does the dishonest manager use his master’s money for?

How will this help him after he loses his job?

Who is Jesus telling this parable to? _____ (v. 1) What does he tell them to use to gain friends for themselves? _____ (v. 9)

If your family takes food over to a sick family, what does it cost your family?

How do you think your meal impacted the other family during their time of need?

Let’s say I gave you \$1000 as a trust. I told you that money was for you to go to camp and to take others with you. How could you use that money “wastefully” (to use the word in v. 1)?

How could you use that money to “gain friends”?

Jesus is saying that the people of the world know how to take risks with \$ to invest in relationships. Since we know that God has entrusted us with resources, we should use them to invest in others.

Where will we be welcomed? _____. How AMAZING it will be one day in eternity, when God has made all things new, to find out how the resources God entrusted to us (so we could help others) resulted in someone starting to walk with Jesus because they saw His love through us!

“Money is not a possession, it is a trust. God entrusts us with it and expects us to use it for His glory and the welfare of His children, not for private glory and glamour.” -- NT Wright

Luke 16:10-18

This section can be summed up in two words: Be Faithful!

Can you remember a time you didn't trust a person with something important because you saw how they handled something minor?

What do you think Jesus meant by “true riches” in v. 11?

There is a OT Hebrew saying, “lifting up your throat.” It's the picture of a baby animal (sheep, donkey, etc.) lifting up their heads to nurse. We have real needs that we have to have fulfilled. If you want to know what or who you are serving, ask yourself, where do you turn to fulfill your needs? (Food, shelter, close friendships, a family of your own one day, living a life that matters, etc.) Do we truly trust that Jesus will supply all those things for us as we follow Him? Or do we turn elsewhere and serve something else, hoping they will satisfy our appetite?

Jesus points out that we can't have 2 masters. Do you think the Pharisees thought they were serving money? _____ If not, what do you imagine they'd tell Jesus (fill in one blank):
“We _____ money.” or “Money _____ us.”

What do the money-loving Pharisees do to Jesus? They _____ at him. What does that word mean?

How are their actions proving what Jesus said in v. 13?

Now who is Jesus talking to? (v. 14)

The Law and the Prophets (what we call the Old Testament) were proclaimed until John. Now the kingdom of God is being preached. Still, what is easier than for the least stroke of a pen to “drop out” of the Law? _____ & _____.
Wait...the Pharisees are experts in the Law. What are they trying to have “drop out” of it? Maybe Jesus will give us a clue in v. 18.

v. 18: The BIG debate in Judaism in their day was: could a man divorce his wife for any reason at all so that he could marry another woman. Some said yes (if she just burned a meal, that was enough of an excuse); others said, no, because the Law only allowed divorce if the wife was sexually unfaithful. (BTW, women weren't allowed to divorce their husbands.) Jesus is very clear: a man divorcing his wife to marry another commits _____

How do you think the Pharisees felt hearing that?

Luke isn't saying much about marriage here. His focus in this section is on Being FAITHFUL to God with what He's given you...like money...and relationships, especially one as intimate as a wife.

Luke 16:19-31

Jesus is still talking to the _____ (v. 14-15). He's still talking about being faithful.

How does the rich man use the resources God has entrusted to him? (Hint: back then a gram of purple dye was worth 3 times more than one gram of gold!)

How does the rich man treat Lazarus when they were both alive?

How does the rich man treat Lazarus when he (rich guy) is in Hades?

What does Abraham call the rich man? (v 25) _____

Wait, the Pharisees taught that all the children of Abraham would be raised in the last day... What is Jesus warning them?

Who could have kept Lazarus from receiving only bad things in his lifetime?

What character in this parable does Jesus not name? Why do you think that is?

Jesus ends with Abraham saying, "If they don't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." Who is Jesus talking about "rising from the dead"? Why won't they be convinced?