

"Who do You Love?"

Luke 16.1-18

You can USE your MONEY to WIN Friends or to MAKE ENEMIES

Reporter asked Latrell Sprewell why he did NOT Play Harder for his NBA Team

‘Why NOT help Minnesota WIN a Championship, then worry about Contract?’

“Why would I want to help them win a title? They’re not doing anything for me. I’m at risk. I have a lot at risk here. I got my family to feed.”

Latrell Sprewell, Minnesota Timberwolves

\$ 15 million YEAR were NOT enough to Meet Latrelle’s NEEDS

Today Latrelle ADMITS > He LOVED Money, Now it is ALL GONE!

Earned OVER \$ 100 million in Basketball --- Today Net Worth less \$ 50,000!

Human HEART made with Huge CAPACITY to Love > to Love GOD

Taken that Capacity – Enormous, Powerful, Love --- Given to Other Things

Luke 15 Love for PEOPLE / Luke 16 > Love for MONEY > WHO do you Love?

1. The Clever Servant

a. Task WE READ ABOUT A - v. 1 "manager"

MANAGER > FINANCIAL CONTROLLER (PLANNER), STOCK BROKER

MAKE MONEY ON SOMEONE ELSE'S MONEY

PROBLEM - NOT CORRUPTION = NOT MAKING ENOUGH MONEY

b. Termination >> FIRED - SPOIL HIS REPUTATION

vs. 1-3 ... was accused of wasting his (owners) possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.' "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg--(SOME CONSCIENCE)

c. Treachery

vs. 4-7 I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.' "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' "Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.' "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' "A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

Plan was NOT Honest but it was BRILLIANT > SHREWD Self Preservation
 Applauding his CLEVERNESS, but NOT his CONDUCT

INTERPRETATIONS??

1) During HARD TIMES (drought, poor harvests) LOWER RENTS / FEES

2) HIDDEN INTEREST CHARGES - OT FORBADE TO FELLOW JEWS

done by Manager / Sometimes without owners knowledge

COMMENDED FOR ACTING IN ACCORD WITH LAW??

Jesus CALLS him a DISHONEST Manager

v. 8 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.

>> How CLEVER Worldly People are when they Act in their own Best Interests

Christians ARE often more NAÏVE – Fall Behind in this Dog Eat Dog World

Because our FOCUS is on ANOTHER World > Everlasting, Eternal, Righteous

FROM THIS STORY JESUS TELLS ABOUT 2 KINDS OF PEOPLE -

v. 13 "No servant can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money."

Thousands on every side are continually trying to do the thing which Christ pronounces impossible. They are endeavoring to be friends of the world and friends of God at the same time. Their consciences are so far enlightened, that they feel they must have some religion. But their affections are so chained down to earthly things, that they never come up to the mark of being true Christians. And hence they live in a state of constant discomfort. They have too much religion to be happy in the world, and they have too much of the world in their hearts to be happy in their religion.

J.C. Ryle

2. Servants of God

vs. 1 Jesus told his disciples >> Story CONTINUES from Chapter 15....

STARK CONTRASTS // INCOMPATIBLE

a. Investments

v. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

USE YOUR MONEY to SUPPORT the GOSPEL, GET OTHERS TO HEAVEN
WHEN YOU GET there YOU'LL be WELCOMED BY THOSE YOU HELPED

“FRIENDS” – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? > People who have Come to JESUS

“Why did the Lord Jesus Christ present this parable to us? Surely he did not approve the cheating...It was not because the servant cheated but because he exercised foresight for the future...He was insuring himself for a life that was going to end...Would you not insure yourself for eternal life?” Augustine

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12.15

Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death.

Proverbs 10.2

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON POSSESSIONS

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4.18

You CANNOT TAKE your MONEY WITH YOU, But Can SEND IT Ahead

“a right use of our money in this world, from right motives, will be for our benefit in the world to come. It will not justify us. It will not bear the severity of God’s judgment, any more than other good works. But it shall be an evidence of our grace, which shall befriend our souls.” J.C. Ryle

b. Consistent

v. 10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

NOT WILL BE - CAN BE // NOT PREDICTION - STATEMENT OF FACT

Matter of CHARACTER - TRUSTWORTHY or DISHONEST - BIG or SMALL

John Wooden was BASKET BALL Coach and a Follower of JESUS

Led University of California at Los Angeles – 10 National Championships

1st Practice of Every Season – Taught Players how to Put on their Socks

2 Pairs – with the Creases Aligned with their Toes – So NOT get BLISTERS

Lots of LITTLE Things are what MAKES BIG Things

ONLY GOD CAN CHANGE HUMAN Character - NEW BIRTH IN CHRIST

good deeds are obvious... cannot be hidden

1 Timothy 5.25

METHOD OF CHURCH GROWTH - CONSISTENT (RELIABLE) PEOPLE

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Timothy 2.2

NEED FOR RELIABLE MEN AND WOMEN



"SECRETARIAT"
won KENTUCKY
DERBY >
'GREATEST
HORSE EVER'

"each successive
quarter mile of the
race was run faster
than the one before.

THE LONGER
THE RACE WENT,
THE FASTER THE
HORSE RAN.

c. Trustworthy

v. 11,12 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

WHAT KIND OF MANAGER ARE YOU? AM I?

PARABLE OF THE TEN MINAS - man with 1 made 10 more:

"Well done, my good servant!" his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'" He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away.'" Luke 19.17,26

Worldly wealth = Someone Else's Property

True Riches = Your Own Property

MEANING - YOUR WORLDLY WEALTH BELONGS TO GOD

Contra "my house, my car, my bank account, my net worth"

WE ARE GONE WE LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND - NO U-HAUL ON HEARSE

WHAT WE POSSES IN LIFE IS "ON LOAN" / WE ARE ALL MANAGERS

ARE YOU TRUSTWORTHY IN WORLDLY "LOANS" (WEALTH)

If NOT, How CAN YOU be TRUSTED with ETERNAL RICHES from GOD??

We must use all these things upon earth in no other way than as a guest who travels through the land and comes to a hotel where he must lodge overnight. He takes only food and lodging from the host, and he says not that the property of the host belongs to him. Just so should we also treat our temporal possessions, as if they were not ours, and enjoy only so much of them as we need to nourish the body and then help our neighbors with the balance. Martin Luther

d. Forceful

v. 16 everyone is forcing his way into it

WHAT ARE FORCEFUL PEOPLE LIKE??

DESCRIBED BY JESUS - THOSE WHO:

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6.27-31

IT TAKES GREAT STRENGTH, GREAT COMMITMENT, GREAT FORCE

If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Matthew 5.29

JESUS SAYS TO THE CHRISTIANS OF LAODECIA & ZGC

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold --I am about to spit you out of my mouth. Revelation 3.15

Lord Joseph Duveen - American head of prestigious Art Firm

1915 planned to send expert employee - EXAMINE ANCIENT POTTERY
TO ENGLAND - BOOKED PASSAGE ON GREAT SHIP LUSITANIA

German Navy SUBS gaining Unseen CONTROL ATLANTIC OCEAN
THREATENED TO SINK ANY SHIP THAT SAILED ATLANTIC

Duveen told employee not to go "I can't take risk of your death"

"Don't worry I am a strong swimmer, and when I read what was happening in the Atlantic, I began hardening myself by spending time every day in a tub of ice water. At first I could sit only a few minutes, but this morning I stayed in that tub nearly 2 hours

DUVEEN LAUGHED - IT SOUNDED PREPOSTEROUS - MAN SAILED
LUSITANIA TORPEDOED AND SANK

5 hrs LATER EMPLOYEE RESCUED FROM THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

FORCEFUL PEOPLE ARE ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

SERVANTS OF GOD CONTRASTED WITH -

3. Servants of Money

v. 14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.

TARGET of Jesus' Message > Pharisees > Powerless in their Powerful Religion

OUTWARD Show // INWARD Shame

Jesus still SPEAKING – by Holy Spirit – All of us Pharisees HERE Tonight

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." Luke 15.1,2

PHARISEES – Muttering >> Challenged in their LOVES

DON'T Love PEOPLE, DO Love MONEY

Maybe these men ridiculed Jesus because he was poor. The Pharisees generally believed that material prosperity was a status sign of spiritual success...like today's health and wealth preachers with their fancy clothes and fine automobiles. By this standard Jesus was an obvious failure. Philip Ryken

IRONY - LOVERS OF MONEY = RELIGIOUS LEADERS // TODAY

MONEY ITSELF NOT ROOT OF ALL EVIL - "the LOVE of Money"

Servants of God - USE MONEY FOR GOD

Servants of Money - USE GOD FOR MONEY

"SAME SNEERS" by Religious Leaders today to those who are serious

a. Self Justified

v. 8 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.

MAY HAVE SAID > "Let us do evil that good may result"? Romans 3.8

COMMEND - Communism for capturing a 1/3 of world in 70 years

Coca-cola that more have heard of Coke than Jesus Christ

Jehovah's Witnesses for being MORE ZEALOUS than many Evangelicals

Muslims for being more Committed to PRAYER > 5 X's Day calling ALLAH

Abortionists & Homosexual movement for capturing GLOBAL Media

DO NOT COMMEND - Message, Motivation, Beliefs, Goals

EMBARRASSED by 2nd (3rd?) CLASS EFFORTS OF SOME XTIANs

EX. IT DOESN'T HAVE to be that GOOD IT IS ONLY FOR THE CHURCH

British M Colleague Uganda RECEIVED A BOX OF "USED TEA BAGS"
 GOD DOESN'T NEED DECADENCE OR EXTRAVAGANCE - BUT BEST
 JUST THINK of ALL MONEY "WASTED" FOR Perfume to WASH JESUS

Judas thought like that

CURE SELF JUSTIFICATION - JUSTIFICATION by FAITH in JESUS X

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood...to be
 just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3.25

NOTHING we Offer to God is Holy, Acceptable, Worthy of MERIT or MERCY

b. Self Deceived

v. 15 "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God
 knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's
 sight.

We are TOLERANT of MONEY Sins --- Not as Bad as those OTHER Sins
 Jesus > Deeply Spiritual Problem – You are MISSING Salvation by Grace
 Worried more about IMAGE & STATUS than HUMILITY and REPENTANCE

IMPORTANT Question is NOT what PEOPLE think of Us, but GOD!

Things we may ACCEPT or APPROVE – God calls them ABOMINATION!!

INCREDIBLE ABILITY TO DECEIVE YOURSELF -

evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
 2 Timothy 3.13

DO YOU THINK RELIGIOUS LEADERS thot THEY WERE WRONG??

OF COURSE NOT!! "WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE IT THIS WAY"

WHO IS THIS GUY JESUS? WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING

PROMINENT, WEALTHY Woman - HIRED AUTHOR WRITE BIO

SHOCKED - Grandfather a Murder > Electric Chair in NY State Prison

BEGGED THE AUTHOR TO FIND A WAY OF HIDING TRUTH

"One of her grandfathers occupied the chair of applied electricity in one of America's best-known institutions. He was very much attached to his position and literally died in the harness."

CURE SELF DECEPTION > TRUTH AS IT REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17.17

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12.2

At the center of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you...Yet along comes this idea of Grace to upend all that...Love interrupts...the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I've done lots of stupid stuff...It doesn't excuse my mistakes, but I'm holding out for Grace. I'm holding out that Jesus took my sins on the Cross, because I know who I am, and I hope I don't have to depend on my own religiosity. Bono

c. Self Ruled

vs. 16,17 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached...It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.

OT - THE LAW OF GOD // NT - THE RULE OF GOD IN THE KINGDOM

THE FULLNESS OF THE LAW

PHARISEES REJECT BOTH LAW OF MOSES & KINGDOM OF CHRIST

"We will not have this man to rule over us"

If YOU TRY to RUN YOUR LIFE, YOU'RE BOUND to MAKE a MESS of It

Run a CAR but IGNORING OWNERS MANUAL // NEED REPAIR MANUAL

CURE SELF RULE - THE RULE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

SOME OF THE MOST TERRIBLE WORDS OF SCRIPTURE

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, saying 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' Matthew 7.21-23

JESUS DOES NOT DENY THAT THEY DID THE GOOD WORKS

Jesus: "If you love me, you will obey what I command" John 14.15

d. Self-Centered

v. 18 "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

EXAMPLE OF LACK OF CONCERN FOR LAW OF GOD

Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. Matthew 19.8

GRACE does not Remove Responsibility > EMPOWERS for Commitment

Love God and Love Man – Sin is Still Sin – Marriage is Gift of God

One Man, One Woman, for Life > Anything LESS is SIN against GOD

ROOT OF MOST DIVORCE IS SELFISHNESS

Rabbi's Interpretation of OT - WOMAN TOOK ALL THE BLAME

GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE:

Rabbi Hillel - Wife puts TOO MUCH SALT IN BROTH

Rabbi Akiba - Husband found SOMEONE PRETTIER than his wife

NEW STANDARD IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN CHRIST

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3.28

MEN ARE JUST AS RESPONSIBLE FOR DIVORCE BEFORE GOD

CURE for SELF CENTEREDNESS - A LIFE CENTERED ON JESUS CHRIST

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1.21

One instance among thousands
Of the uncertainty of human life
And the instability of earthly possessions
And enjoyments.

Born to ample property
He for several years experienced
A distressing reverse of fortune
And no sooner was he restored to
His former affluence
Than it pleased Divine Providence
To withdraw this together with his life.

READER

Be thou taught by this
To seek those riches which can never fail
And those pleasures
Which are at God's right hand
For evermore.

The gracious gift of God
And to be enjoyed through faith
In Jesus Christ our Savior.

Tombstone of Thomas Lowes, Holyrood Abbey, Edinburgh

Luke 16.¹ Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ²So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ ³“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— ⁴I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ ⁵“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’⁶“‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’ ⁷“Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ ⁸“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. ¹⁰“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? ¹³“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” ¹⁴The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight. ¹⁶“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. ¹⁷It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law. ¹⁸“Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

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