

**August 8,2021 Pastor Dennis Doing Something That Matters**  
**Sabbath Series: Finding Rest in the Rhythm of Jesus**

The **Luke 16** parable raised some eyebrows. A parable: is a simple story, easily understood, that teaches a deep and abiding spiritual truth, oftentimes not embraced by the hearers. They are simple but profound, pack a punch, and demand attention.

Today, this pandemic has caused people to lose their spiritual vigor and people have drifted, even in the church. We are definitely under a great challenge against the church today. We are concerned with changes that are happening, but Jesus talked about the signs - wars and rumors of wars, natural disasters, increasing wickedness that we have become numb to, the raising of mankind's fist against God.

The state of the church in the end times is in **Matthew 24:10** *At that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another.* **Matthew 24:11** *Many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people.* **Matthew 24:12** *Because lawlessness has increased, most people's love will become cold.*

If we remove ourselves from the place of God's fire, then our hearts will grow cold. This is our challenge - to pray, to preach, and to plead for the fire of God to be stirred again in hearts and this needs to take place first in the church of Jesus Christ.

Now, Luke's parable... This is the last Sabbath afternoon for Jesus as He addressed the disciples and Pharisees. **Luke 16:14** *Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were ridiculing Him.*

**Luke 16:3** *And the manager said to himself, 'What am I to do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg.* **Verse 8** *And his master complimented the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.* Jesus was not condoning all of this. This was a story about how the world system works. The worldly were wiser when it concerned money. Jesus tells us to be prepared. For the Christian, our world does not end with our debt but ends with our exit from this life into the next. All we have here is going to burn. Be wiser, He tells us, than those who are in the world system. All the unrighteous saw was what was right in front of them, not beyond the end of life. We are citizens of an eternal kingdom! Looking forward to a city that has not yet been seen! Breathing celestial air! And giving honor to Jesus forever!

What we do with money often shows how little wisdom we have. **2 Peter 1:9** *For the one who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.* **Proverbs 17:24** *Wisdom is in the presence of one who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.* That means they have no view of eternity. We don't expect anything from the citizens of this world except that they serve money and pleasure. But from the sons and daughters of the King, we expect prudence in the use of money.

**Luke 16:9** *And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it is all gone, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings. This means to invest in eternal riches, in souls, in soul winners. Money is not immoral or moral - it is amoral. It depends on what we do with it. What are we doing with what God has given to us? The money of this world will fail.*

**James 1:27** *Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

**Luke 16:10** *The one who is faithful in a very little thing is also faithful in much; and the one who is unrighteous in a very little thing is also unrighteous in much.*

Our offering today is a very little thing. Be faithful in the little. Respond to our hearts with joy. Allow the Holy Spirit to give us conviction. Put our money in the hands of Jesus to produce an eternal amount of glory.

**James 2:15-16** *If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?*

Widows and orphans plus the body of Christ... let's give food and shelter and continue the work that God has called us to.

**Luke 16:13** *No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. Invest in eternity.*

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How have you understood more of God's kingdom and money with today's teaching?

Do you see what Jesus is saying in Luke 16:9?

Jesus promises to transform us. What needs do you have?