Lesson 16 Luke 16

1Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. **2**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.’

**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— **4**I 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[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25627a)] 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[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25628b)] 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. **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.

**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. **11**So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?**12**And 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.”

**14**The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. **15**He 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. **17**It 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.

**19**“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. **20**At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores **21**and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

**22**“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried.**23**In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. **24**So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

**25**“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.**26**And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

**27**“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, **28**for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

**29**“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

**30**“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

**31**“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

1. Jesus was still at dinner with some Pharisees and teachers of the Law, during this chapter, so his teaching here is the table conversation. Read Jesus story about the dishonest manager in verses 1-9. Are you surprised that the rich man, the boss of the dishonest manager, commended him for acting shrewdly? Although he was dishonest, what wisdom had the manager shown? Explain.

2. Summarize the point Jesus was making in verses 10-12.

3. Read verse 13. Who or what are some of the masters you have served in the past? What masters are tugging at you now for your allegiance? How do you deal with these pressures, in light of your commitment to Christ?

4. Jesus sees right into people’s hearts, as is obvious by his comment to the Pharisees in verse 15. Jot down, in your own words, what he told them.

5. Read verses 16-18. It was common for Pharisees to declare their wives “unclean”, for any number of reasons, so they could divorce them and marry someone else. What was Jesus saying to them about not justifying their sins, in these verses?

6. Read Jesus story of the rich man and Lazarus in verses 19-31. What caused the rich man to be condemned?

7. Have your values changed since you gave your life to Christ? Do you think God might want to change them some more? Explain.

8. If Jesus was speaking to us about money today, as he was speaking to the Pharisees over dinner, what comments do you think he would make to Christians today? What might he say to you personally?

9. What does this passage teach about the afterlife, and how we should live on earth?

10. Journal this passage SOAP style.