



friendship
community church

A Different Kind of Story

Luke 16:1-18

Week of February 23-29, 2020

Remember that we just studied Luke 15 about the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost sons. Jesus has begun using parables to help share spiritual truths in story form to help the listeners understand the deeper truths of who God really is. In this passage, Jesus uses another parable that if not kept in context, can be truly misused.

Ask, Are you a planner or more spontaneous?

Ask, What is the last truly spontaneous thing that you did? (Keep it clean and legal)

Read the text for this week -

"He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for 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 God and money." The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. "The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery." - Luke 16:1-18 ESV

Learning from a Different Kind of Story

- The Story: Preparing for the unavoidable (The quick version is - you're bad at your job and it is going to be taken away) The deeper more accurate meaning here is - What is your preparation for eternity? This life is going to end. We are all prone to lose focus and just jump into survival mode. The rat race becomes all consuming.

Ask, What are you chasing right now that might be distracting you from seeing this life in light of eternity? (This is a deeper question and you might want to just put it out there and not ask for responses yet.)

- The Principle: One master - we have to choose but many times we live a double life. You either love one or the other. There is no middle ground. Ask, Who do you want to be your master? And then, What are you willing to do for that one thing to be your master? (Remember who Jesus is addressing here as He did in Luke 15 - He is speaking to the tax collectors, the Pharisees, some followers and His disciples) Ask,
- The Audience: Self-satisfied people (like us) 16:14 - Who all is here? sinners-we all know what they look and act like because we are all sinners; tax collectors- Jews working for the Romans; scribes and Pharisees - smart, religious people – Jesus is addressing all of us that believe, “I’ve got it all together and really don’t need anyone else.” Can you relate?
- The Guide: The Word - Jesus came preaching, “repent because the Kingdom of God is here.” The Word is unchangeable. Our wants and wishes change but God’s Word is true. Ask, How are you tempted to stay away from the Word? What have you done to help you fight that temptation in your life?
- The Focus: Eternity - This weird placement addressing divorce (v. 18) seems to be crammed in here – but keep it in light of the whole passage - Jesus is wanting them to focus on eternity - marriage is a temporary picture of an eternal principle. All of life is sacred and holy, and Jesus expects us to understand that in light of eternity.

Ask, How might you see life more clearly through the lens of eternity?

Ask, How might we shift our filter to view life in light of eternity?

Living a New Story - application

- Every circumstance you encounter has an eternal implication.
- Every decision you make has an eternal consequence.
- Every person you meet has an eternal destiny.

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray together.