

Valuables

- What are some of our “valuables”?
- Some “valuables” have only temporary value



Valuables

- What are some of our “valuables”?
- Some “valuables” have only temporary value
 - What are other examples?
- What is a smart thing to do with temporary valuables?
 - Trade them in while you still can!
- What is a wise way to have, view, and use our valuables?
- Pray: Ask God to open our hearts to His Word
 - This can be a particularly hard lesson to learn
 - Yet so wonderful and freeing! And it pleases God

Currency Exchange

Luke 16:1-13

Chinese: page 1694
 Spanish: page 1328
 Brown: page 1048
 Green: page 714



Luke 16:1-13

- 1a: Jesus teaches his disciples
- 1b-2: • Before and after this focus on disciples,
- 3-7: Jesus specifically taught the religious leaders
 - They criticized Jesus' behavior and teaching
- 8a: • It seems that Jesus is specifically warning his
- 8b-12: disciples about an error of the religious leaders
- 13:

Chinese: page 1694
 Spanish: page 1328
 Brown: page 1048
 Green: page 714

Luke 16:1-13

- 1a: Jesus teaches his disciples
- 1b-2: Parable: Manager learns that his job will end
- 3-7: • Parable: A made up story
that generally teaches one main point
- 8a: • Truth that is obvious in one setting
- 8b-12: is then applied to the Kingdom of God
- 13: • Manager has a short time left in his job
because he had been a bad manager

Luke 16:1-13

- 1a: Jesus teaches his disciples
- 1b-2: Parable: Manager learns that his job will end
- 3-7: Manager uses the last days in his job to provide
for his needs after the job is over
- 8a: • Debtors probably rented fields and then owed part
- 8b-12: of the harvest
- 13: • Each was forgiven perhaps 500 days' wages
• Manager pleases the clients while harming his
master (it seems), yet his master had already fired
him, while clients could still help him
• “Reciprocity”/Honor-Shame setting

Luke 16:1-13

- 1a: Jesus teaches his disciples
- 1b-2: Parable: Manager learns that his job will end
- 3-7: Manager uses the last days in his job to provide for his needs after the job is over
- 8a: The owner praises this dishonest manager
- 8b-12: • Surprise: Owner was impressed by the
- 13: “shrewdness” of the manager: **smart, creative, effective action** that met a critical need
- Perhaps how the owner got to be rich
 - Owner (and Jesus) still viewed his action as dishonest

Luke 16:1-13

- 1a: Jesus teaches his disciples
- 1b-2: Parable: Manager learns that his job will end
- 3-7: Manager uses the last days in his job to provide for his needs after the job is over
- 8a: The owner praises this dishonest manager
- 8b-12: Jesus presents this dishonest manager as a model
- 13: • God’s people should learn from his shrewdness ... not his dishonesty!
- We’re like him: our lives won’t last forever, and this age won’t last forever, so worldly wealth will fail us
 - We also should plan for how current resources can become valuable for our next life → be shrewd

Luke 16:1-13

- 1a: Jesus teaches his disciples
- 1b-2: Parable: Manager learns that his job will end
- 3-7: Manager uses the last days in his job to provide for his needs after the job is over
- 8a: The owner praises this dishonest manager
- 8b-12: Jesus presents this dishonest manager as a model
- 13: Jesus' big idea: you can't serve both the current age (wealth) and the coming age (God)
- Serving current age (wealth) is the default
 - We must be intentional about serving God with our wealth, or we won't

Big Ideas

This world's wealth

- Is surprisingly little
- Always spoils & decays
- Always goes away



Heavenly wealth

- Abundant (magnified)
- True/lasting/pure
- Can be ours for good

We can convert this world's wealth into heavenly wealth by generously using it/giving it to pursue God's values

Unconverted wealth dishonors God

**Even seemingly tiny wealth
can be greater than the greatest riches
when converted into heavenly wealth**

**The wise give up
what they are guaranteed to lose
in order to gain far better
that is theirs to keep
and to use forever**



Application

- **See the limitations of this world's wealth**
 - Seem far bigger/more powerful than they really are
 - They always promise to give more than they can
 - They very often take away more than they give
 - They always decay
 - Literally: rust, devaluation
 - Possessions lose their power to satisfy
 - Praise loses its power in a moment
 - Pleasure creates its own dissatisfaction
 - Sin quickly spoils what was good, quickly leading us astray
 - We always lose them eventually
 - They go away, or we go away
- We must have and use them, so seek God's wisdom & discretion
- | |
|--------------------|
| Money |
| Time |
| Praise |
| Possessions |
| Pleasure |
| Power |
| and more... |
- Retrain our eyes to see it**

Application

- **See the limitations of this world's wealth**
- **See the beauty of heavenly wealth offered to us**
 - Abundant, magnified: widows' 2 tiny coins were bigger than the richest people's gifts in the temple
 - Actually, those with less have the potential of receiving far more
 - True/lasting/pure: always better than we can see
 - They have no dark side, and no spoiling, decaying tendency
 - They are life-giving
 - Truly are ours to keep forever
 - They never go away, and neither will we

Retain our eyes to see it

Application

- **See the limitations of this world's wealth**
- **See the beauty of heavenly wealth offered to us**
- **Convert this world's wealth into heavenly wealth**
 - Give money to “Kingdom of God” work: 10%+
 - Give time to do “Kingdom of God” work
 - Add God’s values to what you have, enjoy, or must do
 - Care for people by inviting them into your hobbies, home, relationships, sports, entertainment, ...
 - Care for people in what you already must do
 - Apply your skills and interests to God-honoring tasks
 - Do whatever you do with thankfulness, to the praise of God
 - What you might think is very small (money, time, skills, ...) can be of immense value when given fully to God!

Application

- See the limitations of this world's wealth
- See the beauty of heavenly wealth offered to us
- Convert this world's wealth into heavenly wealth

*Individually and as a community,
family, and church*

*Be shrewd: smart, creative, effective
in using temporary things
to pursue God's values
and turn them into heavenly wealth*

The wise give up

what they are guaranteed to lose
in order to gain far better
that is theirs to keep
and to use forever

**It is sad, shameful, and dishonoring
to God to do anything else**

**It honors and pleases God
to 'convert our currency' with joy!**

