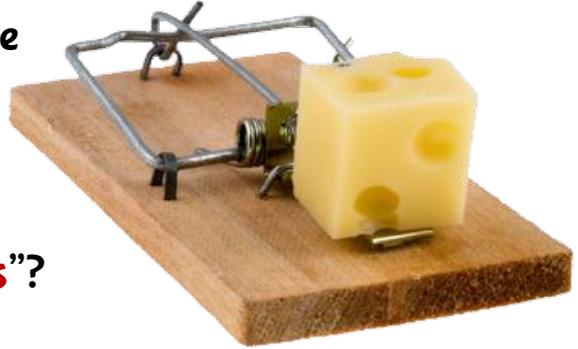


Traps

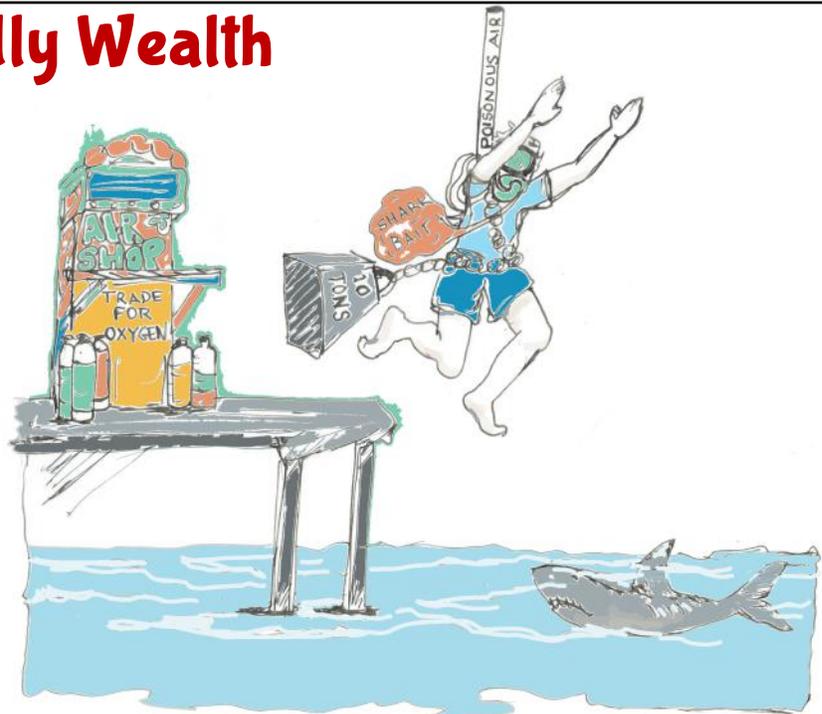
- What makes a **mouse trap** work?
 - It promises to give the mouse something valuable
 - Yet it takes far more from the mouse
 - And there is no escape
- What are examples of “**human traps**”?
- We ask for God’s wisdom to avoid “**human traps**”
 - Wisdom = **Knowledge** (see the trap) & **Action** (avoid the trap)



1

Using Worldly Wealth

Luke 16:1–18



bib.ly/Lu16.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

2

Luke

Luke's big purpose

- That we would **live by the certainty** that Jesus is the Son of God who lived a perfect life, died for us, and rose to life again to **rule over all creation**

The "Travel Narrative" in Luke (9:51–19:27)

- **An advanced class** in being a disciple (follower) of Jesus
- **They had learned: Jesus is God's Messiah, the One who is God and will bring God's Kingdom to humanity (belief)**
- **They hadn't yet learned: how to live according to this reality (action)**

3

Luke 16:1-8a

Jesus told his **disciples**: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his 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—I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

wasting = scattering carelessly (same as Prodigal Son)

4

“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

“‘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.’

“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.’

“The master commended the **dishonest** manager because he had acted **shrewdly**.

shrewdly = crafty, cleverly

5

Luke 16:1-18

1-8a: Man was praised for fixing an unavoidable disaster

- Big amounts: debts reduced by 1.5 year salary
 - The debtors must also have been very wealthy
- There are big reasons **not to like** this man
 - Squandered his master’s wealth (like Prodigal Son)
 - Dishonest in handling his master’s money
- He is **honored** for one thing
 - He was **shrewd** = crafty, clever
 - Understood the great disaster that was soon to come
 - Skillfully used what he would soon lose to provide for himself when the disaster came

8b-13: • Religious leaders: managers facing judgment

14-18: • Warning disciples against the Pharisees’ ways

6

Luke 16:8b-13

For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, **use worldly wealth** to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

“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. 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?”

“**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.”

shrewd = crafty, clever

7

Luke 16:1-18

1-8a: Man was praised for fixing an unavoidable disaster

8b-13: Wise & good: strive for God’s Kingdom and values

- “unrighteous wealth”: This world’s greatest values are decaying and corrupting and they do not endure
- We can turn these decaying and corrupting things into eternal goodness!
- Jesus warns against...
 - Loving things that are decaying and corrupting **more than** we love God’s true values
 - A lazy or foolish or blind approach (wasting...)
 - That is disastrous!
 - We must choose heavenly values,

14-18: or we’ll have earthly decay and corruption

8

Luke 16:14-18

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

“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. It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for **the least stroke of a pen** to drop out of the Law.

“Anyone who **divorces** his wife and marries another woman **commits adultery**, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

metaphor: relationship with God

justify = seek the praise of

9

Luke 16:1-18

1-8a: Man was praised for fixing an unavoidable disaster

8b-13: Wise & good: strive for God’s Kingdom and values

14-18: Disaster: claim to follow God yet value this world more

- God’s character and Kingdom cannot be stopped or changed in even the tiniest way
 - No matter how hard we try, we can’t stop the decay and corruption in the world’s values
 - No matter the opposition, God’s Kingdom will triumph
- Pharisees: loved world’s wealth and human praise
 - And **they used God** to try to gather them
 - This is an abomination!
 - Like cheating in a marriage with God

10

Luke 16:1-18

- Man was praised for cleverly using temporary things to avoid disaster
- Jesus: if only my followers were as clever in using temporary things to gain eternal value!
- To claim to follow God yet value this world more is an abomination!

11

The Big Idea

People who truly love God
convert decaying and corrupting 'valuables' of this age
into eternal beauty
by using them to love/serve God
and to love/serve people

When we claim to love God
yet pursue the decaying and corrupting 'valuables' of this age
we are spiritual adulterers

money/things
 success
 people's approval
 comfort/security
 abilities
 self-satisfaction

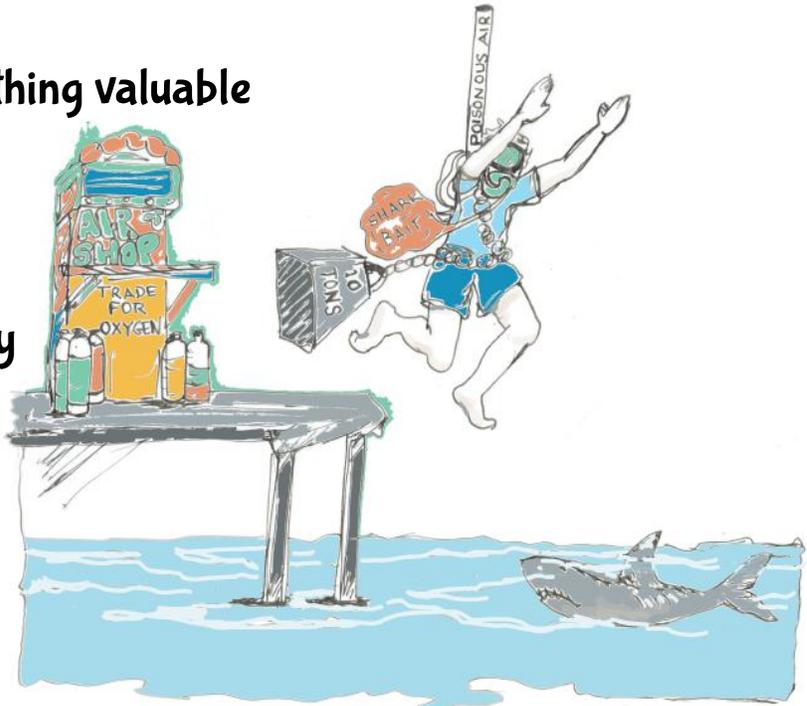
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What this world values...

- promises to give something valuable
- yet they take far more
- and there is no escape

“What people value highly
is detestable
in God’s sight” *Luke 16:15*

because He loves us!



13

What this world values...

- can be converted into true wealth that...
 - is life giving
 - brings health to the soul
 - becomes a wealth that lasts forever



14

The Big Idea

People who truly love God
convert decaying and corrupting 'valuables' of this age
into eternal beauty
by using them to love/serve God
and to love/serve people

When we claim to love God
yet pursue the decaying and corrupting 'valuables' of this age
we are spiritual adulterers

15

Jesus said, **“My kingdom is not of this world.** If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now **my kingdom is from another place.**” *John 18:36*

Jesus gave up wealth, comfort, safety, praise, self–justification, and self–fulfillment in order to...

- **rescue people from sin and death**
- **bring praise to His Father**
- **be honored by His Father forever**

16

Application

Spend world's valuables to love/serve God & love/serve people

- World's valuables are 'unrighteous'
 - They lie: they promise to give what they cannot give
 - They are quickly lost
 - They corrode the souls of those who seek them
- God's valuables are 'true'
 - They give the life they promise
 - They stay good forever
 - They nourish the souls of those who seek them
 - They bring good to those who are near those who seek them

17

Application

Spend world's valuables to love/serve God & love/serve people

- The world's valuables include...
 - Getting more money and more things
 - Being praised and honored by people
 - Fulfilling our own desires and hopes and plans
 - Getting pleasure in our own way and timing
 - "Succeeding"
 - Finding comfort and avoiding trouble
 - Justifying ourselves while condemning others
- This "unrighteous wealth" can be given away to gain "true wealth" in God

18

Application

Spend world's valuables to love/serve God & love/serve people

- Love/serve God & love/serve people
 - Give away & spend what we have to...
 - Grow in knowing God: knowledge, relationship, and action
 - Seek justice and mercy with humility wherever we have influence
 - Make more and better followers of Jesus Christ

19

Application

Spend world's valuables to love/serve God & love/serve people

- We **CANNOT** seek the world's valuables and God's valuables at the same time

“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find **disorder** and **every evil practice.**”

James 3:16

Claiming to love God while seeking the world's valuables is committing adultery against God

20

Application

Spend world's valuables to love/serve God & love/serve people

- Be clever like this manager
- Give away and spend 'worldly wealth' to gain true riches in the Kingdom of God

21

The Big Idea

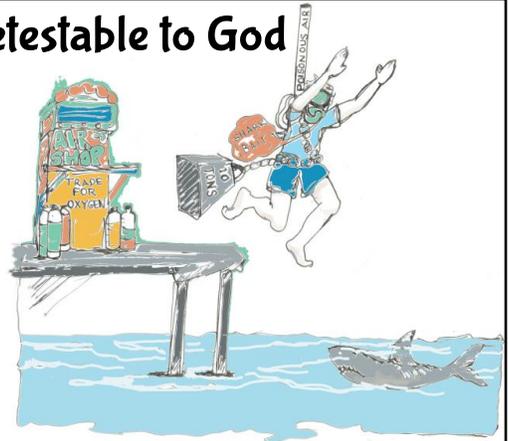
**People who truly love God
convert decaying and corrupting 'valuables' of this age
into eternal beauty
by using them to love/serve God
and to love/serve people**

22

What is highly valuable among people is detestable to God because it steals, kills, and destroys

It is a trap that promises much yet takes away far more

Jesus invites us to live joyfully in the reality that He is God's Messiah, the One who is God and the One who will bring God's Kingdom to humanity



"I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." Luke 16:9

23

Because Jesus gave up His wealth, comfort, and life itself He has opened the way for us to be welcomed in His Kingdom entirely as a gift

And He invites us to live like He did, converting decaying and corrupting wealth into eternal beauty and good

Jesus says, "Follow me!"

"I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." Luke 16:9

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