

► **Read Luke 16:1-31.**

Many commentators believe that “[t]he parable of the Unjust Steward...may well be the most difficult of all the parables of Jesus.”¹

This section in Luke teaches us about money. Before reading today’s passage, describe your relationship to money. (For example: How often do you think about it? How do you use your resources? How does having or not having money make you feel?)

► **Reread Luke 16:1-13.**

1. The parable begins with a rich man, a manager, and an accuser. Summarize the plan the manager settles on given that he is about to lose his job because he has wasted his boss’s possessions. (vv. 4-7)

The manager is praised for acting shrewdly. The Greek word for *shrewdly* can also be translated *prudently, wisely, or sensibly*.²

2. What do the manager’s actions in verses 3-7 tell us about what he is like?
3. “Jesus’ point [in verse 8b] was that worldly people often use the resources at their disposal more effectively than do people of the light – even though their aims are quite different.”³ What would it look like for believers to use their resources “shrewdly,” with an eternal perspective?

9. “The coming of Jesus marked a watershed. Up till then God’s revelation had been made in *the law...and the prophets.... Now the good news of the kingdom of God is preached.*”⁵ How would you communicate the “good news of the kingdom” (v. 16) to someone who recognizes that they are unable to keep God’s law perfectly? (These verses may be helpful: Rom. 3:19–26, 8:1–3; Gal. 3:21–25)

► **Read Luke 16:19–31.**

This story begins in the same way as the previous one: “There was a certain rich man” (vv. 1, 19). “This strongly suggests that, in both of these parables, there is an intention to teach the proper use of wealth.”⁷

10. In this section Jesus tells a story of a rich man and Lazarus. Fill in the chart below by describing these two men.

	In this life	In the next life
The Rich Man		
Lazarus		

How the Rich Man Sees Lazarus

The rich man never sees Lazarus as an equal. He does nothing to alleviate his suffering in life and wants him to do his bidding even after death!

11. What does Abraham say is the purpose of the “great chasm” (v. 26) that lies between the rich man and Lazarus? (v. 26)
12. The rich man does not want his family to experience the same torment he is in.
- What does he propose to Abraham? (vv. 27–28)

b. What does the rich man assume about his relatives? (vv. 27, 30)

c. What does Abraham reveal about their hearts? (v. 31)

13. Someone was indeed sent “from the dead” (v. 30; Acts 2:24); in response some believe, some doubt, and some remain in their unbelief. “The death and resurrection of Jesus meant that everything God had promised, from the very beginning, would come to pass.”⁸

How does Jesus’ resurrection encourage you to live for things that are eternal and highly valued by God, instead of temporal things and things that are highly valued by people?

*📖 For further study

¹ Robert Farrar Capon. *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment: Paradox, Outrage, and Vindication in the Parables of Jesus* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002), 302.

² <https://biblehub.com/greek/5430.htm>

³ *NIV Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003), 1676, note on Luke 16:8.

⁴ Philip W. Comfort, Gen. Ed. *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*. Vol. 12 (The Gospel of Luke; Acts) (Carol Stream: Tyndale, 2006), 225.

⁵ Leon Morris. *The Gospel According to St. Luke: Tyndale New Testament Commentaries* (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 1980), 250.

⁶ Frank E. Gaebelin, Gen. Ed. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary with the New International Version of the Holy Bible in Twelve Volumes*. Vol. 8 (Matthew, Mark, Luke) (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 990.

⁷ Comfort, 227.

⁸ https://www.opc.org/nh.html?article_id=742