

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#63 – “Wealth Management” – Luke 16:1-13

I. Introduction

A. Tearing down idols in our lives.

1. Pastor Don’s initial experience.

a. Idol #1

b. Idol #2

B. The use of money and material things and today’s text.

1. Contrast between Chapter 15 & Chapter 16

a. Wrong attitudes towards people vs. wrong attitudes toward possessions.

2. Very perplexing parable.

a. Today’s Text: Luke 16:1-13

II. Exposition

A. Luke 16:1a

1. Jesus had been addressing the Pharisees (Chapter 15).

2. Now he addresses the disciples.

3. “Squandered” – same term used to describe the prodigal son.

B. Luke 16:1b-2

1. Similar to news reports today.

2. Being fired from a job is never easy.

C. Luke 16:3

1. Thoughts from the non-canonical book of “Ecclesiasticus”.

2. Loss of job – What am I going to do?

D. Luke 16:4

1. His plan – initiated after official termination, but before separation.

E. Luke 16:5-7

1. Is the unjust worker writing off a portion of interest?

2. Was he giving up his commission?

3. Simply put – He was stealing from his employer to help his own situation.

F. Luke 16:8

1. A shocking response from the owner.

2. Even with the financial loss, the owner admired the resourcefulness of the unjust worker.

a. Philip Ryken

3. No commendation for being a thief.

a. Bernie Madoff was diabolically deceitful, but equally resourceful.

4. This parable leads to three lessons concerning:

a. Worldly wealth – Luke 6:9

b. Be faithful with what you have – Luke 6:10-12

c. Do not allow riches to become your god – Luke 6:13

G. Luke 16:8-9

1. Verse 8 – “Sons of this age” – People of the world.

a. Christians should not think in these terms.

2. Verse 9 – The point: Use your wealth to make everlasting friends.

This is Lesson #1.

b. Hughes.

H. Luke 16:10-12

1. Be faithful now so that you may receive something far greater.

This is Lesson #2.

a. “If I had a million dollars, I could....”

1. Be careful.

I. Luke 16:13

1. Do not let material things become your master. **This is Lesson #3.**

III. Points for Reflection

A. The central point of Jesus’ use of this parable was not because the steward cheated, but because he exercised foresight into the future.

B. Let’s take an honest gut check of what we really are giving to the Kingdom.

C. Keep in mind that mammon (wealth or riches) refers to all of our material possessions.

D. The words of Christ are tougher than Moses’ words in the Book of the Law.