

STAY CONNECTED!

Looking for a Life Group or just want to keep up to date with the latest on Every Nation Brisbane's events or podcasts?

Download the free app and stay connected.
Available on the *Apple App Store* and *Google Play*.



EVERY NATION
BRISBANE

© 2022 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

www.enbrisbane.org



PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for all that you've given me. I ask for your guidance. Help me be faithful, just, and make good decisions in small things and big things. I trust you and follow you. Guide me and give me wisdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

[DailyPrayerGuide - Luke 16:10](#)

WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

If you could own and run any company in the world, what would it be and why?

NOTES

WORD

¹ "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. ² 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.' ³ 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. ⁴ I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.'

⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He said, 'A hundred measures[a] of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' ⁷ 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.' ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ "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. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ 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."

Luke 16:1-13

"The text itself provides four interpretations of the employer's commendation.

First, "the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light" (16:8). In other words, Jesus' disciples — often referred to as "children of light" (see [John 12:36](#)) — could learn something about acting prudently from the "children of this age."

Second, what they could learn from the "children of this age" has to do with "making friends for themselves" by means of "dishonest wealth" so that those new friends might "welcome them into the eternal homes" (16:9). Instead of using "dishonest wealth" to exploit others (as the rich do), disciples are to use wealth to "make friends for themselves." If friendships are based on reciprocal and egalitarian relationships, then releasing other people's debts not only enriches them, but also establishes a new kind of reciprocity with them. As a broader context for this, we might note that Luke often depicts how Jesus' ministry and that of his followers is dependent on the hospitality of others ([8:3](#); [10:7](#)). Moreover, hospitality is often provided by those who are considered religious outsiders or lower down on social hierarchies (e.g., the Good Samaritan, [10:33](#); tax collectors, [5:27-39](#); [19:1-10](#); Cornelius, 10:48, etc.).

Third, there's a connection between being faithful (or dishonest) with "very little" and "very much." How one deals with "dishonest wealth" and "what belongs to another" says much about how one will deal with "true riches" and "what is your own" ([16:10-12](#)). How we use

the resources at our disposal in this life — especially in tight circumstances — matters, even though our "true riches" can only be found in that place "where no thief can draw near and no moth destroys" ([12:33-34](#)).

Finally, the capstone to all this is that "no slave can serve two masters ... you cannot serve God and wealth" (16:13). This reiterates a central theme in Luke. The kingdom of God entails giving up all other commitments, including the commitment to economic security ([14:33](#); [18:18-25](#)). As noted, Luke places great emphasis on how the reign of God reverses the status of the rich and the poor ([1:51-53](#); [6:20](#)). In Acts, the Christian community is one where disciples share "all things in common," distributing "to all, as any had need" ([2:44-45](#)). These texts cannot just be spiritualized. Luke is talking about a different way of using wealth. Our wealth belongs to God and is to be used for the purposes of God's reign among us and not simply for our own interests.

-Lois Malcolm, *Working Preacher* (commentary on Luke 16:1-13).

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = never/not at all; 10 = always/extremely), how would you rate your ability to manage well the things that have been entrusted to you? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Would those who know you well consider you generous? Why or why not?
3. This passage talks about learning from those who are shrewd and wise with the way they might steward finances, so that we can build into God's plan of establishing relationships that last forever with him and with one another. Have you set percentages as to how much you might intentionally give (to God and to others), save, and spend? If so, how is this working for you? If not, would you like to?
4. Do you see money as a tool that you can use, or does your life revolve around your ability to make money? How do you know this in your own life?
5. If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you be willing to acknowledge him as your God, enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life, and as the God who loves you? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus?

Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ.
You can pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*