



PRAYER

"Almighty God, we thank You for the resources and blessings You have bestowed upon us. As we gather, we purpose our resources to build Your Kingdom, seeking Your wisdom and guidance in all our financial decisions. Help us to use our wealth to glorify You and to serve others faithfully. May Your Holy Spirit lead us in this study, transforming our hearts and minds to align with Your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

"What is the funniest or most unexpected thing you've ever spent money on, and what did you learn from that experience?"



© 2023 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.

WORD

"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. 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." 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. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He said, "A hundred measures of oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty." 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." 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. 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.

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. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? 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 \(ESV\)](#)

In Luke 16:1-13, Jesus presents the parable of the shrewd manager to highlight the importance of wise and faithful stewardship. The dishonest manager, despite his unethical behaviour, is commended for his shrewdness in securing his future. Timothy Keller points out that this parable challenges us to use our resources strategically for God's kingdom. He suggests that while the manager's actions were dishonest, his foresight and strategic planning are qualities that believers should emulate in a righteous manner.

The emphasis here is that the parable calls us to re-evaluate our relationship with money and wealth. In a modern context, especially in a city like Brisbane, we face numerous financial pressures and opportunities. Our financial decisions should reflect our ultimate allegiance to God rather than material wealth. This perspective encourages us to invest in eternal treasures by supporting our communities and spreading the gospel.

Applying these principles in 2024, we can live out the teachings of Luke 16 by being faithful stewards, making wise financial decisions, and using our resources to build relationships and support the work of the Kingdom.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How does the parable of the shrewd manager challenge your understanding of stewardship and resource management?
2. In what ways can you use your financial resources to build and support the Kingdom of God in your community?
3. What practical steps can you take to ensure that your financial decisions reflect your values and faith?
4. How can we, as a lifegroup, support each other in being faithful and wise stewards of our resources?
5. Reflect on a time when you had to choose between serving God and money. What did you learn from that experience?

"Lord Jesus, we acknowledge You as the true source of all our blessings and resources. We confess that we have often placed our trust in material wealth rather than in You. Today, we surrender our finances and our lives to You. Be the Lord of our hearts and our resources. Guide us in using what we have to honor You and to further Your Kingdom. Fill us with Your peace and wisdom as we seek to follow You. In Your precious name, Amen."