

The Treasure Test

Luke 16:1-18

Today's Question: Am I living my life on purpose with a purpose?

Passage Background: "It's important to notice that the manager was commended not for his dishonesty but for his shrewdness. Jesus was not urging his disciples to cheat. He was encouraging them to be savvy about the use of money and worldly matters in general."¹

Luke 16:1-18 (NKJV); The Parable of the Unjust Steward 16 He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. ² So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.'³ "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.'⁵ "So he called every one of his master's debtors to *him*, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So 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?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸ So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.⁹ "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. ¹⁰ He who is faithful in *what is least* is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is least* is unjust also in much. ¹¹ Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

¹³ "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

The Law, the Prophets, and the Kingdom

¹⁴ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. ¹⁵ And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

¹ Quote from NIV Quest Study Bible.

¹⁶ "The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. ¹⁷ And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.

¹⁸ "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.

The Treasure Test-4 Truths that have the power to change your life today!

1. The b _____: The r _____ man had a t _____ test: I have a s _____ that is unjust (v. 1-2).

4 A's to better lead those under your influence:

- **A** _____ -Stay connected to the people, the processes, and the purpose.
 - **A** _____ -If you want your leadership potential to soar, you will need to embrace a good attitude. Your attitude will either encourage or discourage those under your leadership. Check your attitude at the cross!
 - **A** _____ -There is no true leadership where there is no true accountability. Trust+Accountability=High Level Possibility
 - **A** _____ -All talk without action leads to conversation without conversion.
2. The p _____: The unjust steward had a treasure test: I must give _____ for my stewardship to the _____ (v. 2-12).

Scripture Insight: "Three explanations are commonly given concerning the steward's right to alter the amount his master was owed: (1) The steward simply lowered the price on his own authority; (2) the steward removed the interest charge from the debt, according to the Law (see [Lev. 25:36, 37](#); [Deut. 15:7, 8](#); [23:20, 21](#)); or (3) the steward removed his own commission, sacrificing only his own money and not that of his master. The different rates of reduction reflect the different rates for different commodities."²²

3. The t _____: How to be a "savvy S _____" with Kingdom causes (v. 5-12).

8 Savvy Secrets on how to be a "savvy Saint"

- 1) Savvy saints should be more c _____ than the street-smart people of this world (v. 8).
- 2) Savvy saints are to use _____ and love _____ while people of this world love money and use people (v. 9).

²² Quote from Thomas Nelson, NKJV Study Bible.

Scripture Insight: "How should we use worldly wealth to gain friends? (16:9)

We should use the resources we have for spiritually significant purposes. Nothing we gain in this world can be taken into eternity (1Ti 6:7)—except our relationship with God and the influence we have had on others. The *friends* who welcome us are those people we have helped along the way; they will welcome us into heaven's *eternal dwellings*.³

- 3) Savvy saints pass the _____ test: If you are faithful in _____ opportunities, you will also be faithful in _____ opportunities (v. 10).
- 4) Savvy saints treasure _____ riches over _____ treasures (v. 11).
- 5) Savvy saints discern that we are _____, not _____ a (v. 12a).

Scripture Insight: The test as to whether God will bestow heavenly blessings (**true riches**) on a person is directly related to how that person spends his money. The money we consider our own is actually **another man's**, that is, belonging to God, or at least to the poor.⁴

Matthew 6:19-21;¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1 Timothy 6:17-19;¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

- 6) Savvy saints figure out that _____ follows _____ (v. 12b).
- 7) Savvy saints realize that money makes a good _____, but a horrible _____ (v. 13).
- 8) Savvy saints understand that you can truly _____ only one master: _____ or _____ (v. 13).

³ Quote from NIV Quest Study Bible.

⁴ Quote from Orthodox Study Bible.

4) The p_____ : The _____ test-God tests and knows your heart (v. 14-18).

- What you highly esteem shows where your heart truly is (v. 14-15).
- Passionately pursue the King and His Kingdom with all your heart (v. 16).
- Trust in the reliability of the Word of God (v. 17).
- Be faithful to your spouse your entire life (v. 18).

What kind of steward are you?

- A) I am a ...P_____ Steward-I am wasting my life-my money, time, talents, relationships, and opportunities.
- B) I am a ...P_____ Steward-I am not fully using my life-my money, time, talents, relationships, and opportunities.
- C) I am a...P_____ Steward-I am allowing God to fully use my life-my money, time, talents, relationships, and opportunities.

Christ Connection: Jesus fully gave His life for you so that you could have a full life that is fully given over to the service of God and others.

Today's Big Idea (A short summary): Savvy saints pass the treasure test by loving God through using temporary riches to gain eternal treasures.



1. I will commit to be a *faithful* and *purposeful steward* of all that God has entrusted to my life.
2. I will start *honoring God* with my money by *tithing* to the local church.
3. I will be a *good steward* of my *time* and *talents* by signing up to join a *Serve Team* today.

Preview for next Sunday: "One Minute After You Die" from Luke 16:19-31.