

THRIVING IN A \$45 A BARREL ECONOMY

Part 2 – Understand The Purpose of Money
Luke 16:1-14

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August 13, 2017

I. INTRODUCTION

What would you do if you suddenly were given \$125 million? The Oakland Raiders quarterback, Derek Carr, signed a \$125 million contract extension in June, 2017 with the team.

- A. *Luke 16:11 If you have **not** been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?*
- B. All of life is about getting ready for the **next** one.
- C. *Luke 16:1-9 Jesus told his disciples: There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So the rich man called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ ³ The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg- ⁴ I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ ⁵ So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ ‘Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.’ ⁷ Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ ⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the*

people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. (NIV)

II. THE STRANGEST PASSAGE IN THE BIBLE (Luke 16:1-14)

- A. *Luke 16:14 The Pharisees who loved money heard all this and they were sneering at Jesus.*
- B. *Luke 16:8 ...The people of this world are more shrewd than the people of the Light.*
- C. *Luke 16:3-7 The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig (ditches), and I'm ashamed to beg- ⁴ I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'⁵ So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down **quickly**, and make it four hundred.'⁷ Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.' (NIV)*
- D. *Luke 16:8 The master **commended** the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. (NIV)*
- E. Jesus is not commending this man for being dishonest but He does say we should **learn** some things from what He did.
- F. What did this guy do that was right?
 - 1. He looked **ahead**. He saw the inevitable.
 - 2. He planned ahead. He **planned** for the inevitable.
 - 3. He acted **quickly**. He didn't procrastinate.

III. FOUR "OTHER" REASONS GOD GIVES US MONEY.

- A. All of life is getting ready for the **next** one.
- B. TO ENLARGE THE SIZE OF **HEAVEN**
 - 1. *Luke 16:9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into **eternal** dwellings.*
 - 2. *Matthew 6:20-21 Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your **heart** will be also.*

C. TO SHOW HOW MUCH WE CAN BE **TRUSTED**

1. God expects us to be **responsible** with the way we manage our money, the way we save it, the way we spend it, the way we give it.
2. *Luke 16:10 Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with **much**, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. (NIV)*

D. TO INVITE THE **BLESSING** OF GOD

1. *Luke 16:11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with **true** riches? (NIV)*
2. All of life is getting ready for the **next** one.
3. The level of our faithfulness with money will determine the level of God's **blessing** with "true riches."

E. TO SHOW WHO I **LOVE** MORE

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money. (NIV)

Action Steps I will take this week ...

- I choose to be a part of enlarging the size of heaven through my giving.
- I want to show God that He can trust me by properly managing the money He has given to me.
- I want to live in such a way that I invoke the blessings of God on my life.

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Notes:
