

Luke 16:10-13 – This is How to Get Ahead

Some Christians are irresponsible in one or more critical areas in their lives, and they wonder why they are always overwhelmed. If convicted about it, they typically respond with irresponsible ways of dealing with irresponsibility. Some think it will all work out if they are given just one more chance, but what they need is not a chance but a change. Sometimes the worst thing that can happen to someone who isn't building quality into their lives is for them to have some easy success. They may *have* some success, but they cannot *handle* success, and they wind up back where they started and usually even worse. Many people sincerely want to get out and stay out of trouble, but they shouldn't trust themselves, and make bad choices all over again.

This text instructs us to become the person of quality you need to be. It is primarily about money but it applies to all areas of life that you want to mature in and move ahead. You have to work at it to go from surviving to struggling to stable to successful, in any endeavor, including your spiritual life. This passage teaches that the secret of getting ahead is to become trustworthy.

This text is not everything *about* the subject, or the last word *on* the subject, but it is foundational *to* the subject. This message does not include all the issues that this particular text addresses, but this is biblically based instruction on *this* subject from *this* text of scripture. It is about making the transition from feeling entitled, where you have to defend your actions, to being entrusted, where people can depend on your actions. From feeling you deserve more to being given more. If all you do is act entitled, you won't be a person who is entrusted.

Luke 16:10-12 – 3 areas to build trust, not only what *not* to do but what we *should* do

- With **routine** – even small things matter – it shows that it matters to you – golden rule – do it like you own it because you do, you own that project, that responsibility – Hudson Taylor – A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness to a little thing is a big thing. Mark 4:24-25 – the little only becomes much when you use it – Increase (More stuff)

- With **resources** – what you do with what you have – it shows you do what you can – Oswald Chambers – The golden rule for understanding in spiritual matters is not intellect, but obedience. Luke 12:48 – you must go from deserving to developing – Importance (Better stuff)

- With **respect** – submission, stewardship, faithfulness in another ministry – someone who knows how to submit knows how to lead. If you can't be a good subordinate, you won't be a good supervisor – Charles Spurgeon – Those who have no master are slaves to themselves. Luke 6:38 – invest in other's lives and they will invest in yours – Independence (Your own stuff)

Are you building trust in yourself, not to trust yourself so much as building up the things that make you trustworthy? Can people trust you because you take care of the details? Can people trust you because you know what is important? Can people trust you because you care about their stuff? Can you be trusted with more things, with better things, with control of things?

Vs. 13 – influence – beyond money, it includes time, talent, and treasure. You cannot serve both sides at once: who are you serving at this moment? The secret to getting ahead is getting behind God and letting Him lead. What are you most influenced by, what are you consumed with? Are you consumed with having more stuff, better stuff, your own stuff, or are you concerned with and consumed by giving glory to God through the stewardship of small things, lesser things, and other people's things? Can you count on your character?

Can God trust you? Are you reliable? Are you ready for more? The most important ability is dependability. You can cultivate that, but are you serving yourself or your Savior? People say Christianity doesn't work for me, but it isn't supposed to work for you; you are supposed to work for it! Just keep doing what is right and you will come out shining like the sun, S-O-N. We need to go from an entitled mentality to an entrusted reality. That is how to get ahead.