

Luke 16:16-31

It is important before we get into the text that you remember what we saw last week in verses 1-15.

1. We learned about a rich man and his unwise, unfaithful manager.
2. The manager was accused of wasting his master's money and was about to be fired.
3. The manager comes up with an ingenious plan to ensure that those who owe his master large sums would be indebted to him in the future.
 - a. That plan was to renegotiate all the loans he had managed.
 - b. He would reduce each client's debt significantly.
 - c. His master would lose...but he would be cared for in the coming years!
4. The surprising thing is, that the master praised the unrighteous manager because of his shrewdness!

The point of that parable was 6 fold...

- **Saints should be as shrewd for eternity as sinners are for the temporal. V8b**
- **Eternal investments last for eternity whereas temporal investments only last for time. V9**
- **If we are not faithful with material resources we cannot claim or expect faithfulness with spiritual resources. V10-12**
- **You will serve God or you will serve money, but you will not and cannot serve both. V13**
- **Your response to this message will reflect your heart v14**
- **What impresses men on earth is detestable to God in heaven v15**

Now we get into our text...which is a continuation of what we saw last week, so try to keep that in the forefront of your mind as we read.

READ

Jesus continues his sermon from verse 1-15 (on a love of this life and a neglect of eternity) in a strange manner....but stay with me. It ties together I believe. We see 6 main themes.

1. The Law of God will accomplish its Purpose

1. Simply put the law of God will either accomplish your judgment
2. Or it will motivate your salvation.
3. If you seek justification by keeping the law, you will be judged by the law
4. But if that law pushes you into the kingdom through the gospel you will be saved!

16 *“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John;*

This old covenant was in place until John

1. He was a page break in history so to speak.
2. His coming marked an end and a beginning
3. He was an interim between the Old and New Covenants...who came calling the Jews to repent and to bear the fruit of repentance, which would be reflected in how they use their money!
4. Luke 3:10-14

since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. 17 But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.

The law did not fail.

1. It served its purpose as a tutor, or guardian: Galatians 3:23-24 *But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith*

2. It still serves its purpose to condemn: James 2:10 *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

3. It serves its purpose to push us to Jesus: Galatians 3:24 *Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith*

The law did not fail...and Jesus gives us one glimpse of the law in verse 18.

18 *“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.*

Here is the standard.

1. Marriage is reserved for one man and one woman
2. And that one marriage is intended to be for life.
3. He is trying to show the high standard of the law and the difficulty in keeping it perfectly
4. Matthew 19:10 *The disciples said to Him, “If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.”*

This may seem like an odd insertion here...but we are going to see John the Baptist and the law resurface before we are done...just hold on...because the law will accomplish its purpose.

2. True religion is for real life

1. The Rich and the Poor live together

19 *“Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day.*

- a. a rich man who used his money to put the finest clothes on his back and the finest foods on his table every day...living in splendor!
- b. Remember what we saw in verses 1-15 about money! He is still on this topic.

20 *And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21 and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.*

- c. The poor man lay at the gate of the rich man where he would be seen each day as the rich man went in and out.
- d. All he wanted was to eat what was left over from the rich man's table.
- e. They live together, within sight of one another

as he came and went

2. Prov 28:27 *Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.*

3. This is a violation of the law!!

4. Deuteronomy 15:11 *For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'*

- f. The Rich and poor live together...and the law commands the rich to open his hand.

2. The Rich and Poor Die Together

22 *Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.*

a. They both die.

b. Psalm 49:1-2, 16-20 *Hear this, all peoples; Give ear, all inhabitants of the world, 2 Both low and high, Rich and poor together....Do not be afraid when a man becomes rich, When the glory of his house is increased; 17 For when he dies he will carry nothing away; His glory will not descend after him. 18 Though while he lives he congratulates himself--And though men praise you when you do well for yourself--19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; They will never see the light. 20 Man in his pomp, yet without understanding*

- c. Money can't save you from death no matter how much you have.
- d. The Rich fool

3. Religion that doesn't rearrange our lives isn't real.

23 In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.
24 And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'

1. The man is a Jew. And his Jewishness has not saved him.
2. His religiosity had not redeemed him.
3. So the rich man in the parable is one of those who presumed to say, "I am secure as a child of Abraham."
 - a. But he bore no fruit that befits repentance, as John had exhorted: he shared no food, no clothes, nothing

b. Luke 3:8–11 *Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." 10 And the crowds were questioning him, saying, "Then what shall we do?" 11 And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."*

1. Though a Jew, this man went to hell
2. He did not repent...his life never changed.
4. And this is no doubt the very mockery that that the Pharisees threw back at Jesus in verse 14: "*We are the children of Abraham!*"
5. We are Jews so don't threaten us with hell over the fruit of our wallets! We are still Jews and that's enough.
6. Religion that doesn't rearrange our lives is not real!

4. The faith which justifies purifies

25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.'

1. Abraham responds by telling him why he is in hell...and it seems surprising at first.
2. You in your life received good things so now you are in agony.
3. That seems wrong doesn't it? My earthly blessings affects my eternity?
4. Don't tell me that the way I use my money could jeopardize my eternal destiny."

The faith which justifies purifies—even from the love of money.

1. How many of you love money?
2. How many of you would love to be rich?
3. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 *But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

- a. What is the definition of loving money?
- b. We need to be very careful!

4. The faith which justifies will also purify from the love of money.

Don't get confused. You can't say, well I guess I better do better with my money if I want to go to heaven.

1. You know you can't do good enough works to get to heaven
2. You can't give enough, or pay your way in
3. Don't misunderstand! But do understand that a faith which saves and purifies, will also, by God's grace, save and purify us from our love of money.

5. It is not a shift in spending that changes your eternity. It is a shift in eternity that changes your spending.

1. You store up treasure on earth when your heart is on the earth. You store up treasure in heaven when your heart is in heaven!
2. Matthew 6:19-21 *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
3. Your desires, goals, and priorities change!!
4. If during our time on earth we pursue "things" instead of God then earth will be the extent of our heaven and eternity will be our hell.
5. And, let us not miss this: we are talking about eternity here!
 - a. Not a brief judgment and rebuke
 - b. But a final judgment...eternity

26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'

1. There is absolutely no way out.
2. Death is utterly final. The bed we make in this life we sleep in forever.

6. The solution to the love of money....or lostness v27-31

27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house-- 28 for I have five brothers--in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29 But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'

1. The only solution to a love of money...or lostness is the Word of God...Abraham said the law and the prophets.
2. Remember verses 16-18?
 - a. The law and prophets are a tutor or guardian to lead us to Jesus
 - b. The law and prophets are a standard to convict us of sin and drive us to Christ
 - c. The GOSPEL!

There is nothing...nothing....NOTHING that is any more effective!

1. Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

2. Nothing is more effective...not even if someone came back from the dead to testify!

30 But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

1. If the gospel is not sufficient to bring about your salvation...nothing will! Not even the testimony of one who died and came back to life.

2. John 12:9-10 *The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also*