

Financial Health

Luke 16:1-15



Jesus liked talking about money.

Money can **access** your heart more than many things in this world. It can also **assess** your heart too, which is why Jesus said to his friends - "*Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matt 6:21).

The way we use what we have will reveal whom we serve.

I want to talk about **FINANCIAL HEALTH** today - and how ***sacrificing short-term gains for long-term benefit*** is key to managing money God's way.

Turn with me in your Bibles to **Luke 16**. "*The Parable of the Shrewd Manager*".

Luke 16:1-13

"Jesus said to his disciples: A rich man once had a manager to take care of his business. But he was told that his manager was wasting money. So the rich man called him in and said, "What is this I hear about you? Tell me what you have done! You are no longer going to work for me." The manager said to himself, "What shall I do now that my master is going to fire me? I can't dig ditches, and I'm
ashamed to beg.



I know what I'll do, so that people will welcome me into their homes after I've lost my job." Then one by one he called in the people who were in debt to his master. He asked the first one, "How much do you owe my master?" "A hundred barrels of olive oil," the man answered. So the manager said, "Take your bill and sit down and quickly write 'fifty'."



The manager asked someone else who was in debt to his master, "How much do you owe?" "A thousand bushels of wheat," the man replied. The manager said, "Take your bill and write 'eight hundred'." The master praised his dishonest manager for looking out for himself so well. That's how it is! The people of this world look out for themselves better than the people who belong to the light.



My disciples, I tell you to use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves. Then when it is gone, you will be welcomed into an eternal home. Anyone who can be trusted in little matters can also be trusted in important matters. But anyone who is dishonest in little matters will be dishonest in important matters. If you cannot be trusted with this wicked wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?



And if you cannot be trusted with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something that will be your own? You cannot be the slave of two masters. You will like one more than the other or be more loyal to one than to the other. You cannot serve God and money.



First thing to deal with in this parable is the question everybody asks -

Was Jesus praising this managers *dishonesty*? I want to mention 3 possible answers to that question.

I personally think it was number 3. The *master* got what was due to him, and the *manager* withheld what was due to him for a *future return*. The Master praised the manager for "*looking out for himself so well*".

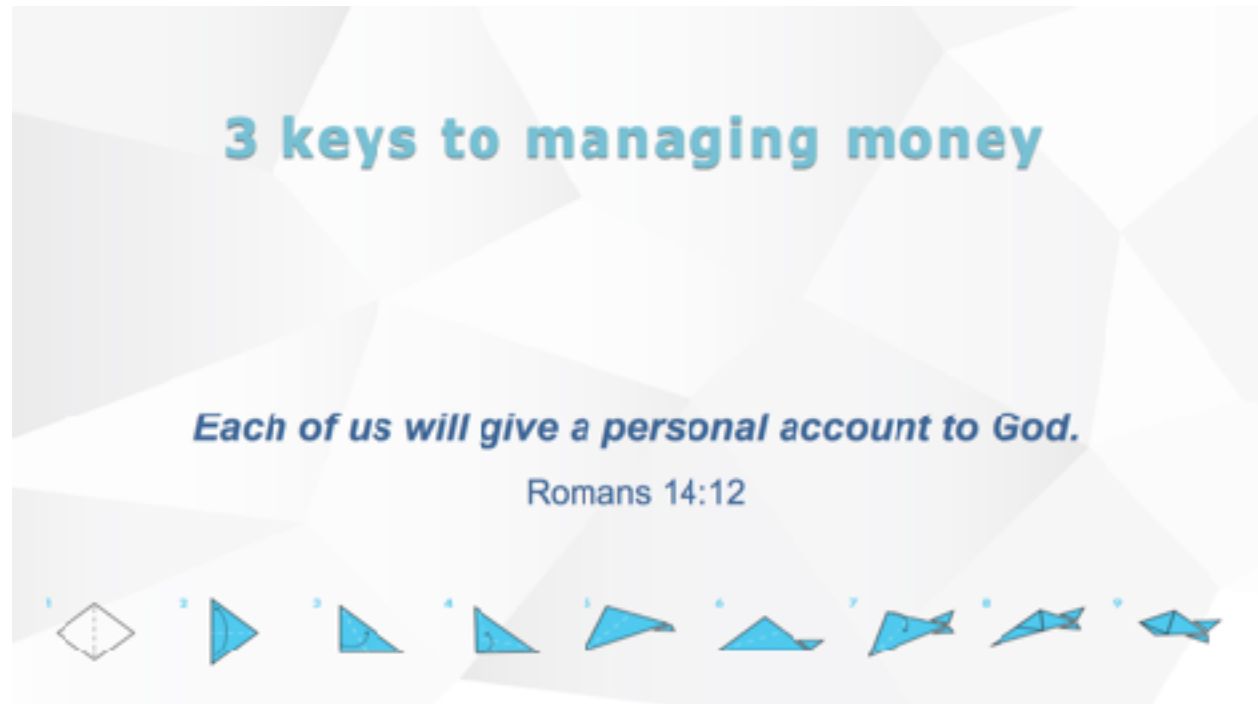
The point being:

It is good to sacrifice short-term gains for long-term benefits.



Delayed gratification is not only good for healthy childhood development; it is especially true when it comes to *managing God's money*.

3 things we can learn from this parable about managing money:



1. It all belongs to God.

You, the universe, the stars, the trees, the air we breath, even the car you drive. *What you think you own is really on loan.* God loans it all to you, and you get to use it while you're alive.

One day your time as a manager on earth is going to end.

It doesn't matter how little or much you've got; what matters is - *what are you doing with what you've been given?* **Because it all belongs to God.**

3 keys to managing money

2. Use It for Good and for God

*There is a sickening tragedy I have seen under the sun:
wealth kept by its owner to his harm.*

Ecclesiastes 5:13



2. Use money for good and for God. Luke 16:9 - "*use worldly wealth*".

The best use of money is using it to get people into heaven.

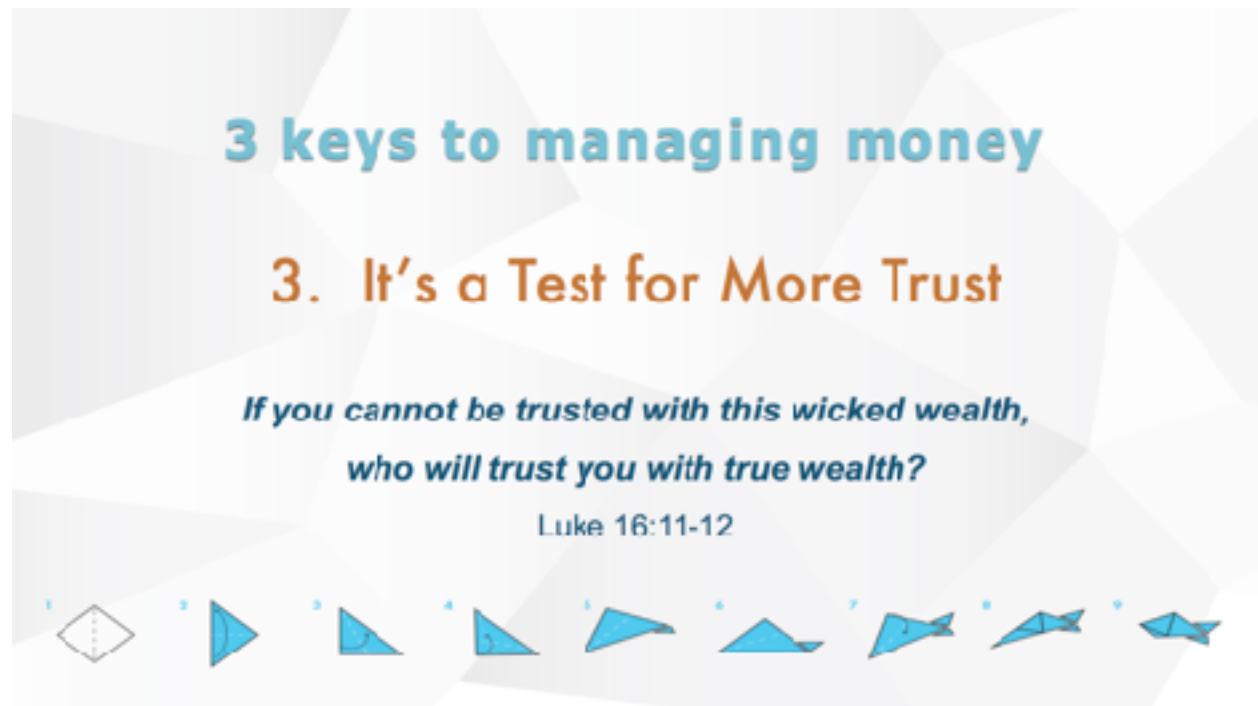
"Then when it is gone, you will be welcomed into an eternal home." your *affluence* and your *influence* to help people meet Jesus. whatever you can to make friends who will be with you in heaven.

Is anyone going to be in heaven because of you?

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Use Use

You can't take your money with you, but you can send it on ahead of you by investing in people who are going to heaven.



3. Money is a test for more trust.

God is testing me on earth to see what He can trust me with in eternity.

Money will test what I love most....

Can you be trusted with true riches? How *shrewd* are you with money?

The manager in this story was praised for being "*shrewd*" with his Masters' possessions. ***How was he shrewd?***

He looked ahead, he made a plan, and he acted on it quickly.

The wise man looks ahead. The fool attempts to fool himself and won't face facts.

Proverbs 14:8



Proverbs 14:8 - *The wise man looks ahead. The fool attempts to fool himself and won't face facts.* **What facts are you unwilling to face about your finances?**

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Does God really have first place in my life?
2. Does the way I use money show God I can be trusted with more of what He has in store for my life?
3. Will anybody be in heaven because of the way I use God's money?



Ask yourself these questions:

- . 1) Does God really have first place in my life? Do I love him more than money? Do I trust him more than money?

- . 2) Does the way I am using money show God I can be trusted with more of what He has in store for my life?

- . 3) Will anybody be in heaven because of the way I am using God's money?