

Luke 16 - Two Rich Men and Their Underlings

1. Jesus tells two stories about money, each of which begins, "There was a rich man...." The first story, however, is more about the man's business manager than about the man himself. Read **Luke 16:1-4**. Why do you suppose the man is usually called a "dishonest manager"?
2. Read **Luke 16:5-7/8**. The manager gave his boss's clients huge discounts. Was this fair?
3. Read **Luke 16:8/9-13**. It is not clear whether the person who commends the manager is the rich owner (the "master") or Jesus himself "(the "Lord"). In either case, the manager was indeed "shrewd" or "prudent." Is there a lesson here for us?
4. Which conclusion added to the story do you find most challenging?
 - The children of this age are smarter than the children of light.
 - Make friends of mammon so you can get into the eternal habitations.
 - Be faithful in little things to be entrusted with greater things.
 - You can't serve God and mammon.
5. The second story is about the unnamed rich man, not about the poor beggar. Read **Luke 16:19-23**. What happened to each of them?

Why?

6. Now read **Luke 16:24-26**. While he was alive, the rich man didn't share his good things with Lazarus. Now things are reversed. Is this fair?
7. Finally read **Luke 16:27-31**. What do you suppose the rich man and his brothers should have learned from "Moses and the prophets"?
8. By the way, did you know that this is the only one of Jesus' parables in which a character has a name? What do you suppose "Lazarus" means? (You can look it up in a Bible dictionary.)
9. Now go back and read the verses between the two stories, **Luke 16:14-18**. Which of these do you find the most challenging?
- Pharisees love money.
 - What humans prize, God hates.
 - People try to force themselves into the kingdom.
 - God's law cannot be dropped.
 - Divorced people who remarry are adulterers.
- Why?
10. If these two stories are all about how we use money, what lessons, if any, have you learned?