RICH

Luke 16:1-15

Big Idea:
Use all your riches—money and possessions—to make friends for eternity!

What Does It Mean to Be Rich?

Jesus challenges us to think differently about wealth. Life is not measured by what we own. The issue isn't simply **how much we have**, but **what our possessions are doing to our hearts—and what we are doing with what God has entrusted to us.**

In Luke 16, Jesus teaches us four foundational practices for living faithfully with our resources.

1. USE YOUR RICHES INTENTIONALLY

Jesus tells the surprising story of a dishonest manager who recognized that his present opportunity was temporary and acted decisively with the future in mind.

Jesus isn't commending his dishonesty. He is commending his **shrewdness**—his ability to recognize that the present was temporary and prepare for what was ahead.

The challenge: Use temporary resources for eternal purposes. Your money, home, possessions, time, energy, influence, and opportunities can all become investments in people and God's kingdom. **Play the long game. Think beyond this life. Plan for eternity.**

2. REMEMBER: EVERYTHING IS ENTRUSTED

Jesus says, “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.”

Everything we have ultimately comes from God: our lives, abilities, opportunities, work, possessions, resources, and time.

So the question isn't simply:

“What do I have?”

It’s: **“How am I stewarding what God has entrusted to me?”**

A helpful HEART reminder:

- **H** — He owns it all.
- **E** — Every day is an opportunity.
- **A** — Action is required.
- **R** — Remember your blessings.
- **T** — Thank Him.

God isn't simply looking for wealthy or successful people. He is looking for **trustworthy people**.

3. USE YOUR RICHES FOR PEOPLE, NOT JUST YOURSELF

Ask: **"God, how do You want me to use what You have entrusted to me?"**

Our resources can become instruments of:

- Hospitality
- Friendship
- Generosity
- Mercy
- Compassion
- Mission
- Gospel ministry

Invite someone to your table. Help someone who is struggling. Open your home. Give faithfully. Support ministry. Use your possessions to bless someone else.

Generosity turns possessions into mission.

The issue isn't simply how much you have.
The issue is what you do with what you have.

4. DECIDE WHO YOUR MASTER WILL BE

Jesus says: "No one can serve two masters."

Money isn't necessarily evil. But money becomes dangerous when it becomes our **master**.

Money makes a wonderful servant. Money makes a terrible god.

The Pharisees had a heart problem: they loved money. The problem wasn't merely what they possessed. **The problem was what possessed them.**

Jesus knows our hearts. So ask yourself:

Am I becoming rich in my relationship with God?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Plan to become rich in generosity.

If you aren't giving regularly, begin.
If you aren't tithing, take a step of faithful obedience.
If you already give, ask God whether He is inviting you to give more generously.

Use your:

- **Money** to bless people.
- **Home** to build friendships.
- **Possessions** to serve others.

- **Resources** to make a difference.
- **Life** to help people come home to the Father.

Luke 15 showed us the Father's heart for lost people. Luke 16 shows us how our resources can become part of that mission.

ONE QUESTION TO CARRY THIS WEEK

How are you using all that God is entrusting to you?

Because what is temporary will eventually be gone—but **people matter forever, souls matter forever, and the kingdom of God matters forever.**

Be wise. Be intentional. Be trustworthy. Be generous. Play the long game.

Above everything else, be rich in your relationship with God.

Discussion Questions

1. **When you hear the word "rich," what immediately comes to mind?** How does Jesus' teaching in Luke 16 challenge or reshape your definition of being rich?
2. Read **Luke 16:1–9**. What does Jesus commend about the manager? Why is it important to distinguish between the manager's **dishonesty** and his **shrewdness**?
3. Jesus says to use temporary resources for eternal purposes. **What are some practical ways you can use your money, possessions, home, time, or influence to invest in people and God's kingdom?**
4. Read **Luke 16:10–12**. What does it mean that everything we have is ultimately **entrusted** to us by God? How might this change the way we think about our possessions?
5. Consider the question: **"What do my possessions reveal about my heart?"** Where do you see contentment, generosity, anxiety, envy, or self-protection showing up in your relationship with money?
6. Read **Luke 16:13–15**. Jesus says we cannot serve both God and money. **What are some warning signs that money is becoming a master rather than a servant?**
7. The sermon challenges us to **"plan to become rich in generosity."** What is one specific step God may be inviting you to take this week—giving, hospitality, helping someone, sharing a meal, using your possessions, or supporting ministry?

Prayer

Lord, everything we have comes from You. Help us to be wise, intentional, trustworthy, and generous with everything You have entrusted to us. Guard our hearts from greed and anxiety, and keep money and possessions in their proper place. Make us rich in our relationship with You, and use our temporary resources to accomplish Your eternal purposes. Amen.