

WEEK OF AUGUST 9, 2026

**5-Day Devotional
based on Sunday's message:**



Teachings on Wealth & Kingdom
Luke 16:1–31

Provided by



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Luke 16:1-31 (NLT)

Jesus told this story to his disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money. So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.’ “The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg. Ah, I know how to ensure that I’ll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.’ “So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe him?’ The man replied, ‘I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.’ So the manager told him, ‘Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons. ““And how much do you owe my employer?’ he asked the next man. ‘I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,’ was the reply. ‘Here,’ the manager said, ‘take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.’ “The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home. “If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.” The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him. Then he said to them, “You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God. “Until John the Baptist, the law of Moses and the messages of the prophets were your guides. But now the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is eager to get in. But that doesn’t mean that the law has lost its force. It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the smallest point of God’s law to be overturned. “For example, a man who divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery. And anyone who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.” Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. “The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’ But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish.

Luke 16:1-31 (NLT) (continued...)

And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’ “Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’ “But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’ “The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’ “But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Day 1: Everything is Entrusted

Devotional

Have you ever borrowed something valuable from someone you respected? You probably handled it differently because it belonged to another person. You knew you could use it, but you could not treat it carelessly. The owner mattered, and so did the trust placed in you. Jesus begins Luke 16 with a manager who has forgotten that distinction. He has authority over the estate, access to its accounts, and freedom to make decisions, but none of it ultimately belongs to him. When the owner calls for an account, the manager suddenly remembers that his position and opportunity are temporary. Our lives are not identical to the manager's dishonesty, but his crisis exposes a truth every disciple must face. God has placed time, money, property, influence, abilities, and relationships in our hands. We genuinely manage them, enjoy them, and make decisions about them. Yet God remains the Owner, and stewardship asks how He wants His gifts used. This is not meant to make us anxious or ashamed. It is an invitation to live gratefully and purposefully under the lordship of Jesus. The One who entrusted these gifts to us is also the One who gave His Son for us. Grace comes before our response. We do not steward faithfully to earn God's love. We steward faithfully because, in Christ, we have already received more than we could ever repay.

Going Deeper

When David gathered offerings for the Temple, he prayed that everything Israel gave had first come from God. That confession changes generosity. We are not rescuing God with our resources or surrendering something He has no claim upon. We are returning part of what His grace first placed in our hands. Jesus lived this trust perfectly. He received His mission from the Father, used His authority to serve, and gave Himself for our salvation. Christian stewardship follows Him by asking a better question than, "What can I keep?" We ask, "How can what God entrusted to me serve His purposes?"

Quote

"God has entrusted us with time, money, property, opportunity, influence, abilities, and relationships. They are genuinely ours to manage, but they are not ultimately ours to possess."

Bible Verse

"Jesus told this story to his disciples: 'There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'" — Luke 16:1-2 (NLT)

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!" - 1 Chronicles 29:14 (NLT)

Reflection Question

Which resource do you most naturally think of as entirely your own? How might your decisions change if you consciously received that resource as a trust from God?

Day 1: Everything is Entrusted (Continued ...)

Today's Practice

Choose one resource you use every day. Write, "Entrusted to me by God," beside its name, then identify one God-honoring purpose for it this week.

Prayer

Father, thank You for every good gift You have placed in my hands. Teach me to receive Your gifts with gratitude and use them faithfully under the authority of Jesus. Amen.

Day 2: Act While the Opportunity is Open

Devotional

Some opportunities come with an obvious deadline. A registration closes, a child grows up, a neighbor moves, or a conversation that felt possible becomes harder to have. We often assume there will be more time until the window begins to close. The manager in Jesus' parable finally sees that his opportunity is ending. He still has access to the accounts, but not for long. His response is dishonest, and Jesus never tells His disciples to copy his methods. What receives attention is the speed and foresight with which the manager acts once he understands that the future is coming. Jesus wants the children of light to live with even greater clarity. Our opportunities to serve, encourage, reconcile, share, and give are not unlimited. Money can be spent later, but a particular need may exist today. A conversation can be delayed, but a person may not remain open forever. A schedule can be rearranged eventually, but the person who needs our presence may need it now. Eternity-minded living is not frantic living. It does not mean saying yes to every request or making reckless decisions. It means refusing to let endless delay disguise itself as wisdom. Jesus calls us to notice the season we are in and act faithfully while the opportunity remains.

Going Deeper

In the ancient household, a manager could conduct business in the owner's name. That delegated authority explains both his opportunity and his accountability. His actions mattered because he was handling another person's estate. Our authority is delegated too. Jesus has given His people time, relationships, spiritual gifts, and material resources to use in His service. Foresight becomes Christian wisdom when it asks what obedience today will matter beyond today. The goal is not to secure ourselves through manipulation. The goal is to use the present faithfully because Christ has secured our future.

Quote

"The manager remains dishonest. Nothing in this story turns fraud into faithfulness, and Jesus never tells His disciples to imitate his methods. What the master recognizes is the manager's foresight: he understands that his present opportunity will soon end."

Bible Verse

"The manager thought to himself, 'Now what? My boss has fired me. I don't have the strength to dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. Ah, I know how to ensure that I'll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.' "So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe him?' The man replied, 'I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.' So the manager told him, 'Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons. "And how much do you owe my employer?' he asked the next man. 'I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,' was the reply. 'Here,' the manager said, 'take the bill and change it to 800 bushels. "The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light." — Luke 16:3-8 (NLT)

Day 2: Act While the Opportunity is Open (Continued...)

Refection Question

Where have you been assuming that you will always have more time? What faithful action is Jesus asking you to stop postponing?

Today's Practice

Take one delayed act of service, encouragement, reconciliation, or generosity and begin it within the next twenty-four hours.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from wasting the opportunities You have placed before me. Give me wisdom to recognize the right moment and courage to act faithfully while the door is open. Amen.

Day 3: Let Temporary Resources Carry Eternal Love

Devotional

It is easy to wait until we have something impressive to offer. We imagine serving when the house is cleaner, the schedule is lighter, the bank account is larger, or we feel more prepared. Meanwhile, ordinary resources sit within reach. For example, a seat at the table, a dependable vehicle, an hour of attention, a useful skill, or enough food to share. Jesus tells His disciples to use worldly resources to benefit others. He is not teaching us to purchase friendship, earn salvation, or manipulate anyone toward faith. He is showing how temporary things can become channels of mercy. A resource may last only a season, but the dignity, welcome, and love communicated through it can shape a relationship and open space for the gospel. Paul gives the same teaching practical form in 1 Timothy 6. Wealth is unreliable, so it must never carry the weight of our trust. God, however, richly provides what we need. Because our trust rests in Him, we are free to enjoy His gifts without worshipping them and to share them without believing that our security disappears when they leave our hands. Jesus is the clearest picture of this generosity. He did not love us from a safe distance. He entered our need, gave Himself for us, and welcomed us by grace. When we use what we have to see, serve, and welcome another person, our generosity can point beyond us to Him.

Going Deeper

The phrase about being welcomed into an eternal home does not describe buying admission to heaven. Eternal life is God's gift through faith in Christ. Jesus is teaching that the way grace reshapes our resources has eternal significance. Generosity can strengthen relationships, create opportunities for witness, and demonstrate that God's Kingdom is more valuable than accumulation. The question is not whether your gift looks large to others. The question is whether love has made what is in your hands available to God.

Quote

"A meal can create a conversation. A ride can communicate dignity. A home can become a place where someone experiences safety. A financial gift can meet a need while also saying, 'You are seen, and you are not alone.'"

Bible Verse

"Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home." — Luke 16:9 (NLT)

"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life." -1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

Day 3: Let Temporary Resources Carry Eternal Love (Continued...)

Refection Question

What ordinary resource could already be a meaningful gift to someone else? Who might experience the welcome of Christ if you made that resource available?

Today's Practice

Choose one person and use one ordinary resource to serve them this week. For example, share a meal, offer a ride, lend a tool, open your home, or give focused time.

Prayer

Generous God, thank You for meeting my deepest need through Jesus Christ. Open my eyes to the people around me and make what I have available as an expression of Your welcome and love. Amen.

Day 4: Faithfulness Lives in Small Decisions

Devotional

Most of life is not lived in dramatic spiritual moments. It is lived through small purchases, kept promises, ordinary schedules, private choices, and unnoticed opportunities. Those decisions can feel too small to say anything important about us, but Jesus treats them as revealing. After the parable, Jesus says that faithfulness in little things prepares a person for greater responsibility. The manager's crisis did not suddenly create his character. It exposed the habits already present in his daily management. In the same way, our private handling of money, time, property, and commitments forms us before anyone else sees the result. Jesus then moves from faithfulness to allegiance, "You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." Money is useful, but it is a cruel master. It promises security, freedom, status, and control, then asks us to organize our lives around protecting those promises. Small choices reveal whether money remains a tool or has begun to give the orders. The good news is that Jesus does not merely expose our divided hearts. He offers grace that can reorder them. Because our life is secure in Him, we can tell the truth, keep our word, live within limits, give generously, and choose obedience even when another choice appears more profitable.

Going Deeper

Biblical faithfulness is not perfection without failure. It is a settled direction of trust that returns to God through repentance and obedience. A disciple may make a poor decision, confess it, repair what can be repaired, and learn a new habit of faithfulness. Jesus' language about two masters leaves no room for peaceful divided loyalty. Both may make demands, but only one can hold final authority. The question is not whether we use money. The question is whether money can overrule the voice of Christ.

Quote

"These choices may feel too ordinary to carry spiritual weight, but Jesus says they reveal whether our lives are becoming trustworthy. Our habits form us long before a public moment reveals us, and small faithfulness prepares a life to carry greater responsibility."

Bible Verse

"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." — Luke 16:10-13 (NLT)

Reflection Question

Which small habit most clearly reveals where you seek security or control? What specific choice would place that area back under the authority of Jesus?

Today's Practice

Review one repeated habit involving money, time, or possessions. Make one small change that reflects faithfulness rather than fear, convenience, or image.

Prayer

Jesus, You alone are worthy of my trust and obedience. Make me faithful in the small choices no one else sees, and free my heart from every rival master. Amen.

Day 5: Ask What Your Heart Has Learned Not to See

Devotional

We can pass the same need so often that it slowly disappears from our attention. The situation has not changed, but we have learned how not to see it. We stay busy, look elsewhere, or tell ourselves that someone else will respond. After Jesus says that no one can serve both God and money, the Pharisees scoff because they love money. Jesus then tells of a rich man who lives in comfort while Lazarus suffers at his gate. The rich man's wealth is not presented as the automatic cause of his condemnation, and Lazarus' poverty is not presented as the cause of his salvation. The story exposes a heart that has become closed to God's Word and blind to the person lying directly in its path. Wealth can create distance from discomfort. It can help us avoid people, problems, and questions that might interrupt the life we prefer. That is why Jesus keeps bringing stewardship back to the heart. What we love shapes what we notice, and what we repeatedly ignore can reveal whose authority we are resisting. Yet Jesus speaks this warning as an invitation to repent. The risen Christ can change what we love, soften what has become calloused, and teach us to see people through His mercy. Grace does not leave us defended and indifferent. Grace opens our eyes and our hands.

Going Deeper

Luke 16 ends with Abraham saying that those who refuse Moses and the prophets will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead. Jesus would rise, and some would still refuse Him. The problem was not a lack of evidence. It was a heart unwilling to receive the truth already given. Scripture calls us to more than agreement. It calls us to hear, repent, trust Christ, and obey. When the risen Jesus becomes our King, resources no longer exist merely to protect our comfort. They become tools of mercy in the hands of people whose hearts have been made alive.

Quote

"Jesus is not teaching that possessing wealth condemns a person or that poverty saves a person. He is showing us the outcome of a heart that continually refuses God's authority, closes itself to the needs of others, and will not repent."

Day 5: Ask What Your Heart Has Learned Not to See (Continued...)

Bible Verse

“The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him. Then he said to them, “You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God. “Until John the Baptist, the law of Moses and the messages of the prophets were your guides. But now the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is eager to get in. But that doesn’t mean that the law has lost its force. It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the smallest point of God’s law to be overturned. “For example, a man who divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery. And anyone who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.” Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. “The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’ “But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’ “Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’ “But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’ “The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’ “But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’” — Luke 14-31 (NLT)

Reflection Question

What person or need have you become accustomed to passing without really seeing? How will you respond to God’s Word with repentance and mercy rather than explanation or delay?

Today’s Practice

Identify one “gate” in your normal routine where a need is easy to overlook. Take one concrete step to see, listen to, or serve the person connected to it.

Prayer

Risen Lord, soften every place in me that has become defended or indifferent. Help me hear Your Word, see the people You place in my path, and use what You have entrusted to me as an instrument of mercy. Amen.