

Investing in the Future Luke 16

I. Wise to Invest in the Future -16:1-8

1. Rich man and his steward – 1
Jesus did not say that this was a parable
He may have been commenting on a fact
“There was a certain rich man who had a steward”
Steward was accused of wasting his master’s goods
2. Steward was called in to account – 2
Steward must give an account
Result is the steward will lose his position
3. The steward made a plan – 3-4
He didn’t want to dig or beg
He would use the time he had to prepare
He would make friends with those who owed
That they might find a position for him
4. He carried out his plan – 5-7
He called each of his master’s debtors
Asked each how much they owed
Settled each debt at a reduced rate
One cut 50% another cut 20%
5. Lord’s words of commendation – 8
He did not commend him as being righteous
He still called him an “unjust steward”
But what he did was wise
Used current resources to prepare for future
At times unbelievers act more wisely than believers

II. How to Invest in Eternity – 16:9-13

1. Learn from this story – 9
Jesus is not commending dishonesty
But there is an element of truth here
Use what resources you have to invest in eternity
Remember death ends this opportunity
2. We are all stewards – 10-12
Faithfulness is tested in small ways
If you are not faithful using earthly resources
Why should you be trusted with “true riches”
If proven unfaithful with another’s resources
Why should you be given “your own”
3. You can’t serve God & material gain - 13
You must choose to invest in eternity

III. Obeying God’s Word – 16:14-18

1. Serving God is investing in eternity
Serving God is obeying His Word
2. Pharisees’ rebuttal – 14
They heard what Jesus said but derided Him
They were covetous sought for material gain
3. Jesus’ response to Pharisees – 15-18
You twist God’s law to justify yourself

You claim you are pursuing God’s kingdom
But you are not walking in harmony with God’s Word
Their view of marriage & divorce – Matt. 9:3-12

IV. Results of Investing – 16:19-31

1. Earthly & Eternal value system
Serving God or serving material things
2. Jesus told them of two men – 19-21
Rich man who dressed and ate well – 19
Lazarus, a beggar covered with sores – 20-21
Desired only crumbs from rich man’s table
Laid at rich man’s gate, dogs licked his sores
3. Death came to both men – 22
Beggar died – carried by angels to Abraham
Rich man died and was buried
4. Rich man is in hell, tormented – 23
Sees Abraham & Lazarus in his bosom
They are far removed from where he is
5. He cries out for mercy – 24
He bases his claim on being a child of Abraham
Desires only a drop of water from Lazarus’ finger
He is tormented in the flame
6. Abraham’s response – 25-26
Remember you had resources in your lifetime
Lazarus had very little of world’s values
Now he is comforted & you are tormented
You had opportunity to invest in eternity
With one who was right at your gate
There is a great gulf separating us – 26
There is no further opportunity to change
7. Rich man’s final plea – 27-28
Send Lazarus to my family to warn them
I have 5 brothers who follow my way
8. Faith is determining issue – 29-31
They have Moses & Prophets
Believe what God says in His Word
Rich man pleads for a miracle – 30
They would believe if one returned from death
Not even a miracle would persuade them
Think of all of Jesus’ miracles
There was another Lazarus who rose from death