

Jeremy Marrone

Monday Night Bible Study

A Luke Collection

Luke Chapter 16

1. Israel had squandered the inheritance Yahweh had given them.
2. They had squandered their place as God's light in the world.
3. They had been called to bless the nations (Abraham). Genesis 12,15,18.
4. In Luke 14, Jesus instructs his listeners to invite the hurting, broken, and needy to their tables.
5. In Luke 15, Jesus tells the story of the prodigal son, in whom his father had blessed him with great inheritance, and he squandered it.
6. In this chapter, we will see how Jesus calls his listeners, His own people, to be a blessing to all nations according to the commands of Moses. We come to an understanding that they didn't live up to that calling. It's a stark warning for us to obey God's commands.

Two VERY important questions in these chapters:

- 1) What is God's expectation of the inheritance He has given to us as His people?
- 2) How are we supposed to leverage the inheritance He has given to win people?

**There is NO LACK in God. Our human fear of lack comes from the enemy, who tries to lie to us that God will not provide everything we need. (Adam & Eve in the garden at the tree)

Psalm 23:1 - The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

(This begins on the very end of the prodigal son, who squandered his inheritance)

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management because you cannot be manager any longer.'
³ "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job.

I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg—⁴ I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

⁵ "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

⁶ "Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.'

⁷ "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' "A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

⁸ "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd (wise) in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. ¹⁰ "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? ¹³ "**No one can serve two masters.** Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.**" ¹⁴ *The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.* ¹⁵ *He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight.*

¹⁶ "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. ¹⁷ It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law. ¹⁸ "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his

side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

²⁷ "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

²⁹ "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

³⁰ "'No, Father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

- Teachings of Moses and the prophets are at the heart of the passage.
- The Rich man and the beggar have a dramatic change of fortunes in the afterlife:
 - o The poor man is comforted.
 - o The rich man is tormented.
- Lazarus isn't described as virtuous, nor is the rich man believed to have become rich by evil means.
- For that reason, the story might appear to suggest that wealth is evil.
- But the rich man did not receive condemnation because he was wealthy, but because he was ignoring his obligations to God under the covenant God made with Israel.
- How do we know that?
 - o The poor man was searching through garbage to find food.
- Why is this image an evidence of covenant violation?

- *Deuteronomy 14:28-29 - At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.*
- *Deuteronomy 15:7-8 - If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need.*
 - *Deuteronomy 15:4 - However, there need be no poor people among you, for in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you.*
