

# Do We Own or Manage Our Money?

If we manage – how?

- ☐ To get whatever we want!
- ☐ To extend God's kingdom!

Text: Luke 16:1-15 NAS 2020

**Introduction:** Dear friends: I hope you ➡ believe the Bible and ➡ know Jesus as Savior and Lord (if not, go here: [The Bible Is True; Why Is Faith in Jesus the Ticket to Heaven](#)).

**Followers of Jesus** – what about money and possessions?

- **We are managers, not owners.** God has gifted us with whatever we have ([Ja. 1:17](#)). *It's ours to manage!* Eventually God will gift it to someone else ([Eccl. 2:18](#))! It is critical to ➡ understand, ➡ believe, and ➡ apply God's management principles!
- **When we apply God's management principles, He increases our money and possessions:**
  - [Proverbs 3:9-10](#) "**Honor the LORD from your wealth** [[Mal. 3:10](#)], And from the **first** of **all** your produce; So your **barns will be filled** with plenty, And your **vats will overflow** with new wine."
  - [Luke 6:38](#) "**Give, and it will be given** to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure-- **pressed down**, **shaken together**, and **running over**. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."
- **What is the purpose of the increase?** ➡ To get whatever we want **or** ➡ to use it to extend God's kingdom!

In today's gospel reading, Jesus told a story about a man who was a manager who wasted his boss's possessions.

1. **The Manager Was Losing His Job:** <sup>1</sup> Now [Jesus] was also saying to the disciples [Jesus wants His disciples to apply His word and others, including Jewish leaders who were present, to repent], "There was a rich man who had a manager, and this *manager* was reported to him as squandering his possessions. <sup>2</sup> And he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.'" // He got caught, so his job was ending!
2. **The Manager Made Friends with His Customers:** <sup>3</sup> "And the manager said to himself, 'What am I to do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from the management *people* will welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup> And he summoned each one of his master's debtors [one by one, privately], and he *began* saying to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> And he said, 'A hundred jugs of oil [totaling between 800 and 900 gallons].' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' And he said, 'A hundred kors of wheat [totaling 1,000 bushels].' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'" // The manager gave *significant reductions* to his customers, which made them indebted to him!
3. **The Manager Was Complimented by His Boss:** <sup>8</sup> "And his master complimented the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly [wisely, insightfully]; for the sons of

**this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.”**

- a. The manager **was shrewd**, so he ♦thought about his situation and ♦planned for the loss of his job. Since he could not dig and would not beg, he used the money under his control to compel his customers to provide a place for him to stay until he got another job.
- b. Most Christians are **not shrewd**, so they do not think ahead nor plan for the life to come! Jesus is calling us to THINK and to CHANGE!

4. **The Application for Christians:** <sup>9</sup> **“And I say to you [My disciples], **make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness [the temporary money and possessions under your management], so that when it is all gone, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings.”****

- a. Did You Catch the Parallel?
  - i. **The manager** used **money** to gain **earthly friends**!
  - ii. **We** should use **money** to gain **eternal friends**!
- b. What Is Typical? As non-believers use their money for their earthly gain, *believers tend to do the same* 😊.
- c. Can You See Our Foolishness? Non-believers think **this life is it, so they live for now**. We know **this life is NOT it, but we still live for now** 😊.
- d. How Did Jesus Instruct Us? **Matthew 6:20-21** “...lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is [what is important to you], there will your heart be also.” // See **Matthew 25:35-37**: hungry-food, thirsty-drink...

- e. What Is Coming? **Romans 14:12** “...each one of us shall give account of himself to God.” // *Be ready!*

## 5. Important Realities:

- a. <sup>10</sup> “The one who is faithful in a very little thing is also faithful in much; and the one who is unrighteous in a very little thing is also unrighteous in much.  
<sup>11</sup> Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth [minor], who will entrust the true wealth to you [MAJOR]? // *No one!*
- b. <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another’s [we are only managers], who will give you that which is your own? // *No one!*
- c. <sup>13</sup> No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. // Most pretend to serve God but secretly serve wealth. **Let us repent!**

**Conclusion:** <sup>14</sup> Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were ridiculing [Jesus]. <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the sight of people, but God knows your hearts; because that which is highly esteemed among people is detestable in the sight of God.” // The Pharisees fooled most people, *maybe we do too*, **but God knows each of our hearts**. So, let us truly ♦repent and ♦honor Him!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear LORD, You have given us countless gifts to manage. Help us to ♦*be thankful* and ♦*extend Your kingdom!*

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