



Weekend Worship

On Sunday, we focused on the story Jesus told about “The Shrewd Manager” in Luke 16:1-9. If you haven’t had a chance to hear a sermon on this section, go on our website and listen to the message on August 2nd on Luke 16:1-9.

wise and faithful manager

Last week, in the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25), Jesus taught us to always keep watch because you do not know the day or hour. This week (Luke 16), Jesus teaches us to be spiritually wise as we use our earthly possessions.

As you read through Luke 12:35-48 (below)...

- ⇒ Underline portions where Jesus encourages you to always keep watch and be ready.
- ⇒ Circle portions where Jesus encourages you to be wise and faithful with all God has given you right now.

Luke 12: 35-48 (NIV)

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

⁴¹ Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”

⁴² The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? ⁴³ It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. ⁴⁴ Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁵ But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. ⁴⁶ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

⁴⁷ “The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

- 1) “Be ready” and “Be wise” are repeated themes in Jesus’ teaching in the Gospels and throughout the Bible.
 - a. To me, being spiritually READY looks like:

 - b. To me, being spiritually WISE looks like:
- 2) Why do you think Jesus emphasizes this for us (for YOU)?
- 3) What are situations / times in your life when it’s been very easy to forget to be watchful and wise?
- 4) Tell a story (your life or someone else) who displayed spiritual wisdom (either continuously or at a “big moment.”)

our time here is limited

James 4:13-17 ^(NIV)

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.”

¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

- 1) James 4:14 -“What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”
 - a. James is not trying to tell you that your life is worthless or that physical life is meaningless. What is his point (use the sentences around this verse)?

b. Complete this sentence:

⇒ If I take to heart what James is saying here, then I will _____.

2) *Explain:* Our time here is limited, but our time is not limited (see Luke 16:9).

3) Give three concrete ways this shapes your focus, attitude, time, or use of possessions.

for others

Luke 16:1-9 (NIV)

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 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.” ¹

- 1) As Jesus tells this story, it seems like it’s all about looking out for #1, for one’s own self. The wise manager is looking out for himself and preparing for when he will get the boot from his job. Explain how the “conclusion” in Luke 16:8-9 shows that this is not a “self-serving” story.
- 2) What does Jesus mean when he talks about “use worldly wealth to gain friends”?
- 3) “When,” not “If” – you will lose all your earthly jobs, roles in life, and possessions. How does embracing this “WHEN” thinking impact our life choices? Our focus on using “using worldly wealth to gain friends”?
- 4) How might a Christian (you) “use worldly wealth to gain friends”?

¹ *The New International Version*. (2011). (Lk 16:1-9). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

⇒ Based on what God's taught you in what we've studied today, what should YOU:

DO? (and NOT DO?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

PRAY?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, you never doubted or wavered in giving your life, ministry, death, and resurrection for the whole world, for me. Thank you for your life-changing work. In your grace and by the Spirit, increase my wisdom and empower me to use what you give me for your glory and the good of others. In your name, Jesus, I pray. Amen.