

## Investing 101

Luke 16:1-15

### THE STRANGE STORY OF A SHREWD CROOK:

Luke 16:1-8/ Matthew 10:16

- The dishonest manager was smart enough to prepare for his future.
- Jesus said that made him smarter than most of us!

### JESUS' INVESTMENT ADVICE:

Luke 16:9-14

- ❶ I can't take it with me, but I can send it ahead!  
Luke 16:9/ Proverbs 11:4/ Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, 21 & 5:15/ Matthew 6:19-21
- ❷ If I can't be trusted with money, I'll never be trusted with the really important stuff.  
Luke 16:10-12/ 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- ❸ The master I serve is the master I have.  
Luke 16:13/ Matthew 6:24-33/ Proverbs 23:4-5/ 1 Timothy 6:9-11 & Hebrews 13:5-6

### INVESTING WISELY: Hot Tips & Practical Advice

- ❶ Start today. Tomorrow never comes!  
2 Corinthians 8:1-2/ Malachi 3:10-11/ Haggai 1:2-14 & 2:5-19
- ❷ Ignore the Joneses.  
Ecclesiastes 5:10/ Proverbs 21:20/ Proverbs 12:9 & 13:7
- ❸ Invest off the top. Start with the 10-10-80 formula.  
Proverbs 10:9-10/ Proverbs 21:20/ 1 Timothy 6:17-19/ Acts 5:1-11 cf. vs 4

## **Food for Thought**

For the week of November 19, 2006

(Questions and scriptures for further study)

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In this week's teaching we saw how important it is to God how we invest our money not only for our time here on earth, but also to "send it ahead" for eternity. The following questions are going to address three perspectives that will either help or hinder our desire to put Jesus' investment advice into practice.

### **OWNERSHIP**

How would understanding and applying the following verses help free you up to put into action the principles and practices from this week's teaching?

#### **Deuteronomy 8:18**

But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. [NIV]

#### **1 Chronicles 29:14-16**

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. [15] We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. [16] O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. [NIV]

#### **Psalm 24:1**

Of David. A psalm.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it; [NIV]

At times, we all forget that what we have is God's, not ours. Can you think of any reasons you typically use to think it is all yours and not God's? What's your response to the fact that all you have is actually God's?

### **STRATEGY AND RETURN**

A key piece in deciding if you're going to make an investment is what you're going to have to do to make the investment and the return you'll receive once you make it. Write out the investment strategies and returns listed in the following verses.

#### **Proverbs 11:24**

One man gives freely, yet gains even more;  
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. [NIV]

#### **Proverbs 11:25-26**

A generous man will prosper;  
he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.  
[26] People curse the man who hoards grain,  
but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell. [NIV]

#### **2 Corinthians 9:6**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [NIV]

Which of these strategies is most important for you to remember and why? How important is it for you to keep the “return” in mind?

### **PASSION**

What we spend our time doing, talking and thinking about reveals the passions of our heart. Take a few minutes and write out where you spend your time and what you think and talk about. Now read Matthew 6:19-24. To what extent are your passions driven by or in competition with making eternal investments?

#### **Matthew 6:19-24**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

[22] "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. [23] But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

[24] "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. [NIV]