

Moving To Higher Ground

Lost, Part 2

October 3, 2010

When it comes to being lost financially, the opposite is not to be found but to know where I am and where I want to be.

Two reasons to talk about money in church:

1. The Bible talks about it.....a lot!
2. I cannot be a fully devoted follower of Christ and be lost financially.

Major, major component of this discussion: agreeing that money is a spiritual issue.

We are going to look at a parable that talks about how God views money and stuff. Here's the punch line, so you can be looking for it: It's not what God wants from you but what He wants for you.

Parable of the Shrewd Manager

Luke 16:1-15

v. 1 *There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions.*

v. 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.'*

vs. 3, 4 *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-I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'*

vs. 5, 6 *So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.'*

v. 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.'*

v. 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.*

v. 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.*

vs. 10-12 ***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. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?*

v. 13 ****No servant 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.*

vs. 14-15 *The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight."*

God sees stuff through three different lenses:

1. *Money is a **tool**
2. **Money is a **test**
3. ***Money is a **brand**

Imagine if you put this into practice today. What will be different five years from now regarding your:

1. **finances**
2. **your relationship with God**

My Next Step Today Is:

- This week I will begin (continue) keeping track of my spending
- I will consider how I can use my 'stuff' to have an eternal impact
- I will memorize Luke 16:13