

137,491	9,198,126
137,491	9,198,126
3,952,788	
1,430,723	
146,812	
100,029	
1,596	
366,272	
1,354,851	
856,411	
101,625	8,107,861
35,866	1,090,251
2,420	
36	
370	
(239)	
16	
286	
1,25	
16	

BE RICH

> PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS

11 But you, Timothy, are a man of God: so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which

H

(4) "Eternally-Minded"

HIGHLIGHT: 1 Timothy 6:19, Luke 16:1-15 NLT

Below are excerpts from the overall passage for use with the APPLICATION and RESPOND. It will be beneficial for the group to read the whole passage to understand the entire context.

1 Timothy 6 (NLT)

vv. 17-19

17 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 19 **By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.**

Luke 16 (NLT)

vv. 1-15

1 Jesus told this story to his disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. 2 So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'

3 "The manager thought to himself, 'Now what? My boss has fired me. I don't have the strength to dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. 4 Ah, I know how to ensure that I'll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.'

5 "So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe him?' 6 The man replied, 'I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.' So the manager told him, 'Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.'

7 "'And how much do you owe my employer?' he asked the next man. 'I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,' was the reply. 'Here,' the manager said, 'take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.'

8 "The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light.

9 Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.

10 "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. **11** And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? **12** And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?"

13 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

14 The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him. **15** Then he said to them, "You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God."

EXPLAIN

E

The purpose of this section is to deepen everyone's understanding of the Word.

Two men died and went to heaven. One had been rich on earth, but deeply involved with *me, myself, and I*. The other had been poor, but rich in helping others. Saint Peter showed them to their houses. The poor man was shown to a house that was fabulous beyond his wildest dreams. The rich man thought, "Boy, if his looks like that, mine must be a castle indeed!" But he was disappointed to see his own house was a most modest cottage. Saint Peter explained, "We could only build with the materials you sent ahead!"

1 Timothy 6:19 Paul has encouraged us to get a grip on our money and not let it get a grip on us (v.17). He has urged us to remember our money isn't our own and that it's to be generously shared with others who are in need (v.18). He forces us to take a long look at life and get our balance sheet in order so that life beyond this earth will be blessed. He tells us to **store up treasure as a good foundation for the future** so we can **take hold of the life that is truly life** (NIV). What we do today with our money makes a difference in that "eternal tomorrow" (see *2 Corinthians 5:9-10*). "It's not what I would do if one million dollars were my lot; it's what I am doing with the twenty dollars I've got."

Luke 16:1-15 Jesus gives a parable to help us understand the great responsibility with which we should handle our finances—especially in relation to eternity. Two thoughts before we jump into this. First, in most parables Jesus typically has **one** main point. So let's not try to put a meaning on every person and element in the story. Second, a parable is often just the backdrop—the scenery, if you will—that sheds light on the point Jesus may make a little later.

vv.1-3 The setting is this: **the manager who had been managing the affairs of a rich man** found himself between a rock and a hard place. It seems that a whistleblower had turned in a **report that accused** (NIV) the manager of **wasting his employer's money**. It doesn't matter if the report was true, the manager was **fired** on the spot.

vv.3-8a Being too weak to **dig ditches** and **too proud to beg**, the manager began scheming as to how he could make **friends who would give him a home when he was fired**. There were people who owed money to his employer and “cooked the books” so their debt was reduced in a very attractive way. The employer who was sharp-witted **admired the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd**. Note: Jesus is in no way condoning the fraudulent activities that had just gone down (see *1 John 1:5-6*).

vv. 8b-9 The **children of this world**—those who live for this life only, giving thought only for today and what is best for me—are **more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light**. The children of this world *know how to take care of their goods and use them to their advantage* (see *Luke 12:16-21*). But, for the most part, the children of the Kingdom (light) are not so savvy in their use of God’s money (or talents, or personality, or opportunities, etc.)—the treasure is to be the “foundation for the future life” (*1 Timothy 6:19*). George Buttrick said, “This rogue [the manager] acted with foresight.” He secured his well-being by buying friends with money. Jesus is suggesting we act with the same kind of foresight and use our money (lives) for that which is lasting. Proper use of God’s blessings calls for sharp thinking (see *Matthew 10:16*).

vv.10-15 What else is competing with my attention? One of the best indicators is my checkbook (bank statement, Mint, Turbo Tax, etc.). **No one can serve two masters...you cannot serve both God and money**. “Where your treasure is,” said Jesus, “there will your heart be also” (*Matthew 6:21*). What is your heart following? Do I run after God and His desires? I may have little, but that little bit is important to God. As Hudson Taylor said, “Small things are small things, but faithfulness with a small thing is a big thing.” This world is not our home. Let’s send some building materials ahead while we can.

APPLY

Be comfortable with some silence as people think back to the sermon or reread the text. Answer honestly. You don’t have to answer every question.

1. What stuck out to you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?
2. How can our resources and what we do with them reveal our heart?
3. Think about your own life and your use of money. What does it reveal about **your** heart?
4. What are ways you can use your money for good?
5. Why is it important to be faithful in all we have, whether we have little or much?

RESPOND

The purpose of this section is to take action with the truths you're learning. Answer honestly. Find someone who will hold you accountable to living out your response to Scripture.

1. As we've been making our way through this series, what has been exposed in your heart? What are you learning about "where your treasure is..."? Pray for God to reveal any "earthly" treasures and to help replace those with treasures that would please God. Also, thank God for His faithfulness! We can acknowledge and repent of sin, knowing that God isn't giving up on us. Because He is faithful, we have hope for change.
2. What is a step you can take to serve God with your money this week? Remember it is not about the amount, but about the heart and the eternal implications our choices have. Is it committing to the tithe for the first time in your life? Is it tipping your waiter extra when you go out to eat one day and thereby planting a seed of hope in his/her life? Is it providing a meal for a family who has experienced hardship this week?

Giving is the most fun we can have with money and the reality is we cannot take it with us, but we can use it as a tool in this lifetime to reap eternal rewards, both for ourselves and for those impacted by our giving.