

For the Family

Read together Luke 16:13:

No servant can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.

Explain that Jesus is saying that we have a choice to make in life. We can choose to serve God or we can choose to serve money. But we cannot serve both God and money.

Money is necessary of course. That's why we have jobs, so we can provide for ourselves and our family. We need shelter, food and clothing, transportation, medical care and so on. God provides these for us by giving us skills, training, and opportunities. We earn money that provides what we need.

But money can become a god to us, if we're not careful.

Read Exodus 5:7 – *You shall have no other gods before me.*

Explain that this is the very first commandment: no other gods. We don't worship false gods or wooden idols as some people did back then. But we can make other things into false gods or idols.

Explain how we can know if money is like a god to us.

Do we think about money a lot or worry about it?

Do we lie or cheat in order to get more money?

Do we spend a lot of time taking care of our possessions?

Is it hard for us to give away our money or possessions?

Talk together about how you as a family can work together to keep God number one, and not allow money to take God's place. Talk about trusting God to provide for you, living with what he has given you, and being generous with others.

Pray together, thanking God for what he has provided for your family, asking him to help you keep him first in your life, especially over your money and possessions, and helping you be generous with what you have.



*The Journey of Discipleship
Luke 9-19*

The Shrewd Manager

Luke 16:1-13

Our Story So Far – Luke 9:51-15:32

- Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and fulfill his mission.
- Jesus sends out messengers. Some are rejected; others tell stories of their power over demons.
- Jesus teaches the importance of loving God and loving others.
- Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray.
- Jesus drives out a demon from a mute man; then challenges those who doubt his power or who want to see more signs.
- Jesus confronts some Pharisees and lawyers, accusing them of hypocrisy and burdening people with legalism.
- Jesus warns his disciples against hypocrisy. He exhorts them to acknowledge him before others, and promises the Holy Spirit will help them when they face persecution.
- Jesus warns his disciples against greed or worry.
- Jesus warns his disciples to be always watchful and prepared for his return, even if it seems delayed.
- Jesus warns the crowd to not judge others who experience tragedy. He tells them rather to repent.
- Jesus frees a woman from a disabling spirit, and confronts those offended because he did it on the Sabbath.
- Jesus warns people to strive to enter the kingdom of God.
- Jesus warns people to be humble, and receive his invitation.
- Jesus warns people to relinquish any entanglements with people or possessions which will affect their discipleship.
- Jesus tells a story to show how he receives sinners and that heaven rejoices whenever a sinner repents.

Luke 16:1-13 – The Shrewd Manager

The Parable

1-8

- What is the charge brought against the manager? 1
- What does the rich man tell his manager?
Does the manager respond to him?
What does that imply? 2
- What action does the manager take? 3-7
- Why do you think the rich man commended the manager?
Does Jesus commend the manager?
What is Jesus' application of the parable? 8b

Lessons from the Parable 9-13

- How does Jesus summarize the parable? 9
- What does the saying in verse 10 mean?
How do verses 11-12 expound on this?
- What does Jesus say about serving two masters? 13

Reflect

Jesus' Warnings

Jesus has been saying in various ways that the time for decision is short. It is time to receive him as the Messiah. Think back to some of the stories we have read. Retell each parable, and then read the scripture to hear again Jesus' warning.

Do you remember the Parable of the Rich Fool? (12:16-21)
Read Luke 12:20-21. What is Jesus' warning here?

Do you remember the Parable of the Servants? (12:35-40)
Read Luke 12:40. What is Jesus' warning here?

Do you remember the Parable of the Narrow Door? (13:24-30)
Read Luke 13:24-27. What is Jesus' warning here?

Do you remember the Parable of the Great Banquet? (14:16-24)
Read Luke 14:24. What is Jesus' warning here?

Taken together, what do these warnings mean to you? 2

God or Money?

How do you view your money?

- (a) It's mine; keep your hands off?
- (b) It's my creditor's?
- (c) It's God's; I just manage it?

What are some ways the pursuit of wealth can lead us away from God?

Do you agree with Jesus that you cannot serve both God and money? Or do you try and serve both?

Below are some signs which might indicate that money has too much importance in your life. Do you recognize any of them?

I think or worry about money a lot.

I sometimes lie or cheat in order to gain more money.

I use my money for sinful purposes.

I sometimes step on, or otherwise use other people to gain money.

I live beyond my means. I am in debt.

I am not generous with my money.

Is there anything you need to do to make sure that money is not a master in your life?

What can you do to keep God and His Kingdom first in your life?

Next Steps

As a disciple of Jesus . . .

- I will think clearly about the issues and situations I find myself in so that God can be glorified through my choices and actions.
- I will be concerned about things that impact eternity.
- I will take action today to make sure I am prepared to meet God.
- One thing I need to do now in order to be spiritually prepared for the future is _____.

Memory Verse – Luke 16:10

One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.