

How should I use my money in crisis times? Luke 16:1-15

Read Luke 16:1-15 and pray that God would grant you spiritual understanding.

1. If you had any one million rand, what would you do with it?
2. Often times, a parable of Jesus has only one central point. This one has four! Can you identify them in v.9; vv.10-12; v.13; v.15 respectively?
3. What could Jesus possible means by “gaining friends” so that “you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings” in v.9? It might be good to reflect on the teaching on Jesus in Matthew 25:31-40 (note also the warning in vv.41-46!).
4. How would you describe the relationship between justification by faith, good works and rewards in heaven? Use biblical passages to show the relationship.
5. Think about v.9. How might you use your “worldly wealth” to make friends? You can find Jesus giving a hint in Luke 12:33. Does Jesus expect us to sell all we own and give it to the poor - why or why not?
6. Can you see how Jesus’ story of the Rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) illustrates the principle of v.9? What would you say is the purpose of that story?
7. What is Jesus trying to say in v.10-12? What should our attitude be towards our possessions? What are the “true riches” that Jesus speaks of? Will they be better than earthly possessions?
8. Following from question 6, Jesus makes a similar point in the parable of the Ten minas according to Luke 19:11-27. Did you notice the similarity?
9. Meditate on v.13. Describe the ways that our materialist world serves money. Can you see any such tendencies in your own heart and actions? What should you do in response?
10. Jesus challenges our desires in v.13. What is the thing that you desire the most? Is it God? What needs to happen in your heart to be transformed from desiring the things of this world to desiring God? Take a look at Titus 3:5 and Luke 12:34.
11. Following on from the previous question. Can you see how this principle is reflected in the story of the young man in Luke 18:18-23? Notice that the conclusion of the story gives the punchline, and thus the point.
12. Why did the Pharisees have a problem with Jesus according to v.14? What does Jesus say they are missing in v.15? Are there times, places, or in the company of certain people that you care more about the opinions of people than God’s opinion of your heart? What must you do in response today?