

**READ Luke 16:1–15**

1. The manager, who is referred to as being “dishonest” in verse 8 and about to be fired, put a plan in place saying “*when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses*’ (v4)
  - i. How might his plan, referred to in verses 5-7, secure this future outcome?
  - ii. Do you think his plan was in any way dishonest?
  - iii. The manager’s boss commended him for being “shrewd” by coming up with this plan (v8). How would you define the word “shrewd” and why do you think his boss was so complimentary of his actions?
  - iv. Jesus said that people of “the world” tend to be shrewder than people of “the light” (v8). In what ways might this be so? How can Christians become shrewder?
2. On Sunday Glyn told the story of how an ex-employee of a company who serviced fire extinguishers left with the company’s database and after setting up his own rival company contacted everyone on the list to offer them a cheaper service than his former employer. Would you say he was dishonest or shrewd?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “*Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves*” (Luke 16:9)?
4. Jesus contrasted being trusted with handling worldly wealth with handling “*true riches*” (v11). What might be the “*true riches*” that the Lord has entrusted to faithful believers?
5. Jesus said that you cannot serve both God and money (v13). In what ways might people (Christians and non-Christians) serve money and what safeguards can be put into place to help resist the temptation?

**READ Luke 16:19-31**

6. The story contrasts 2 men whose lives on earth, and then their lives after death, are radically different from each other.
  - i. Why might a man with so many resources (v19) ignore the very visual needs of someone so close to him who was suffering (v20-21)?
  - ii. How does our treatment of others—especially the poor or marginalized—reflect our relationship with God?
7. Whilst this seems to be a parable, and we shouldn’t try and base our doctrine on everything found in a parable, it does present us with the idea that there are two states of being after death - rest and torment (v23) – and suggests that the type of life led before death determines a person’s destination after death.
  - i. What is your response to this image that some will experience “torment” after death?
  - ii. How would you answer someone who takes this text to mean that uncaring “rich” people will be “*punished in hell*” and that anyone who has suffered in this life will automatically go to heaven?
8. Why does Abraham refuse the rich man’s request to bring Lazarus back from the dead to warn his brothers? (v27-29)?
9. How does this parable
  - i. Connect to Jesus’ resurrection?
  - ii. Connect with the need of the believer to be a messenger of Jesus’ resurrection?

**FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION**

What resources has God given me that I could use to help bring others to faith in Jesus?