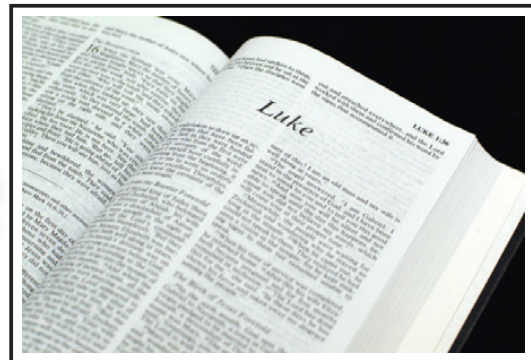


The Gospel of Luke



FRIDAY May 20

CONFLICT AT THE OFFICE

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 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'" (Luke 16:1-2).

The rich man confronted the manager face to face. Is it hard for you to face conflict? If so, in which environments do you find it hard or easy: work, family, friends or strangers? Why?

Read Luke 16:3-7. Then the shrewd manager considered his "new" options: hard labor or begging. Instead he used his master's "worldly wealth" to gain future "earthly" benefits for himself.

It is easy to be generous when what you are giving away does not belong to you. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Read Luke 16:8-9. The master commended him for his planning ahead and his "shrewdness." Instead he encourages us to use our "worldly wealth" to gain future "spiritual" benefits.

SAT./SUN. May 21/ May 22

HOW YOU HANDLE THE LITTLE STUFF "MATTERS"

"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" (Luke 16:10).

The work habits we develop on a daily basis typically will define our character. How do you maintain good habits?

"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?" (Luke 16:11-12).

How do you handle "worldly" wealth? How seriously do you take "true riches?" We need to be trustworthy in everything we do.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Phil. 4:8).

MONDAY May 23

SLIPPERY SLOPE— SERVING TWO MASTERS

"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" (Luke 16:13).

Our actions sometimes expose our true feelings and thoughts. How seriously do we take worldly wealth versus how seriously do we take our relationship with the Creator of the universe? Where do you spend your time and money? What guides your thinking?

Read Phil. 3:19. Many have their mind on earthly things and their destiny is "not good."

Read Col. 3:1-2. If we have trusted in Christ, then we are encouraged to set our hearts and minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Which spiritual disciplines do you practice daily to guide your heart and thoughts toward Jesus?

TUESDAY May 24

BEING HONEST ABOUT THE CONDITION OF OUR HEART

"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'" (Luke 16:14-15).

God knows our "hearts," so we need stop deceiving ourselves.

Read James 1:22-24. It encourages us to look intently into the perfect law that gives "freedom." Proactively listen to the Word and walk away, "not forgetting" what our "hearts" look like.

Read 1 Tim. 6:10. First of all, Paul says that the "love of money" is the root of all kinds of evil. Some, not "all," who are eager for money have wandered or drifted from the faith and pierced themselves with large amounts of "debt" and "heart" ache.

Read 1 Sam. 16:7. Man worries about the outside. God looks at the "heart."

WEDNESDAY May 25

ETERNAL DEATH OR ETERNAL LIFE (CHOICE)

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores" (Luke 16:19-21).

Daily luxury can blind our eyes and hearts to the physically and spiritually sick. Why do you think this can happen?

Read Luke 16:22-24. Lazarus to paradise/heaven and the rich to Hades/hell.

Why didn't the rich man notice the beggar everyday at the gate? Because the rich man did not need anything.

Read 1 Tim. 6:17-18. Those who are rich in this world should not put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth. Where is your hope/heart/mind/soul?

Read Luke 16:25-26. Good things now could lead to bad things later. Get your heart right before it's too late.

THURSDAY May 26

HEAT WARNING

"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment'" (Luke 16:27-28).

Read Col. 4:5. We are encouraged to be wise in our actions and make the most every opportunity before it's too late!

What keeps you from sharing your faith story and the "good news" about Jesus?

"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead'" (Luke 16:29-30).

Let us fix our eyes and hearts on Jesus who wants all people to be saved.

Steve Pollock is a graduate of the Disciples Curriculum and attends the Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study at the Blankenbaker Campus.

