



Moving to Higher Ground
Luke 16
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
February 25, 2018

Bottom Line: You have a little bit of time and a little bit of treasure and a big opportunity. Don't miss it!

Introduction:

When it comes to our personal finances, it's easy to get lost.

- End up with more debt than I planned.
- End up with more bills than I planned.
- Wonder where all the money went.
- Wonder if I'm ever going to get ahead.

The opposite of lost is not found. The opposite of lost is realizing where you are and how to get where you want to be.

Our assumptions drive our behaviors.

Last week, we said you can't wholeheartedly follow Jesus and stay lost

financially because Jesus said so much about money. Money is a spiritual issue.

Today, through a parable, we are going to see how God views our money.

A big part of finding our way financially is to begin to see as God sees.

Read Luke 16:1-8

The parable:

The problem: Irresponsible steward (financial manager) was fired.

The solution: Made friends, so he would have a place to go.

The response: He received praise from his master for being shrewd.

Christ's observation: The world is wiser in the way it uses money than the Christian community. It thinks ahead.

Three lessons from the parable:

Lesson #1: Our possessions are tools (v. 9).

Our possessions are tools to be used for bringing people into the Kingdom.

We are not commanded to only use 10% of our worldly wealth. That's just the beginning. We are commanded to use 100%.

APPLICATION: IT'S TIME TO GET CREATIVE AND ASK YOURSELF, HOW CAN I UTILIZE WHAT I HAVE TO FURTHER GOD'S KINGDOM?

Lesson #2: Our possessions are a test (v. 10-12).

Our life is one big audition for a part in God's Kingdom.

We have all been giving a little bit for a short time.

The little bit you possess is not yours; you just get to manage it for a little while.

The test determines whether you can be trusted later.

How you handle your money does not determine *where* you go, but *what it will be like* once you get there.

☐ Join us Next Sunday for LOST Part 3: Flashback.

NEXT WEEK— LOST: Flashback

If God has blessed you with more than you need, it is so that you can share your abundance with those in need. Jesus said, “A person’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Lesson #3: Out use of possessions is evidence of whose we are - trademark (v. 13).

A trademark is the device that communicates ownership. It’s a symbol identifying the manufacturer or distributor of a product.

The ultimate issue is lordship; who has your heart?

Who do you belong to?

APPLICATION: IT’S AMAZING THAT WE’LL ADJUST OUR STANDARD OF LIVING FOR A CAR, A HOUSE, OR A WIFE, BUT NOT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

We will budget carefully in order to *spend* more, or even *save* more, but *not to give* more. **That’s how you know who you belong to.**

Consuming is not fulfilling.

I’ve never met anyone who **gave** his way into financial insolvency, but people do consume and spend their way there. Stuff never equals peace.

Conclusion:

Our assumptions drive our behaviors. What would happen if you spend a week thinking: tool, test, trademark?

You have a little bit of time and a passing opportunity to invest those things that pass away into something that will never pass away.

You have a little bit of time and a passing opportunity to demonstrate in the most tangible way, whose you are.

This is why I don’t feel the least bit hesitant to challenge you to tithe; giving 10% will force most of you to adjust your lifestyles. Then you will know whose Kingdom takes precedence in your life.

It’s all part of following Jesus.

You have a little bit of time and a little bit of treasure and a big opportunity. Don’t miss it.

NEXT STEPS:

- ☐ Memorize: Luke 16:13.
- ☐ Meditate on Tool, Test, Trademark?
- ☐ Pastor, Sign Me Up for the Six-Month Tithe Challenge.