

“A Bad Man’s Good Example!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. This past summer we all heard about *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation* receiving **Warren Buffett’s** gift of **\$31 billion**.
 - 1.1.1. In 2 years they will start receiving Increments of **\$3 billion** a year.
 - 1.1.2. Must give away every nickel that is contributed in the previous year.
 - 1.1.3. In the next 2 years, the foundation plans to **double its staff** to about **600 people** to handle the additional money.
 - 1.1.4. I wonder **what** they’ll invest in. I wonder **how much** will be a temp blessing(earthly), or a how much will be an investment to the future?
- 1.2. Christmas message? – Well...ch.16 has to do with *the proper use of money!*
- 1.3. The “*Sabbath day*” which began in 14:1 continues to 17:10.

2. A BAD MAN’S GOOD EXAMPLE! (1-13)

- 2.1. **MONEY MATTERS!** (1,2)
- 2.2. (1) Though speaking to “**His disciples**” he was still dealing with the Pharisees...*see correlation in vs.14. [note “there was a certain rich man” & Pharisees...lovers of \$] also vs.19*
 - 2.2.1. The Pharisees were *mastered by desire for material gain*, while claiming to be the **teachers** of the moral law & **interpreters** of spiritual life.
- 2.3. **A steward** – a manager who oversaw a rich man’s estate. (like Joseph to Pharaoh)
 - 2.3.1. **This one was accused of wasting his employer’s possessions.**
 - 2.3.2. It could have been **incompetence** or **dishonesty** or **both**.
 - 2.3.3. He was given great authority over his master’s household.
 - 2.3.3.1. Usually over servants, workers, the women & children, & is empowered to transact business as he sees fit.
- 2.4. **Wasting his goods** - Like the prodigal(*wasteful*) son, this steward wasted his master’s goods, just as many people are doing today.
 - 2.4.1. **From the prodigal son to the prodigal steward.**
 - 2.4.2. Many people are doing the **same today**...wasting what God has entrusted into their care!
- 2.5. (2) **What is this I hear about you?** – Often times the servants & workers didn’t like him, so they would either **spread gossip** about him, or **spy on him** so they could report it to their master.
- 2.6. **No longer be steward** – you’re fired!

- 2.7. **Individual accountability to God:**
- 2.7.1. Rom.14:12 “each of us shall give account of **himself** to God.”
- 2.7.2. 2 Cor.5:10 “For we **must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether **good or bad.**”
- 2.7.3. All that we have comes from the Lord and must be used for **the good of others and the glory of God.**
- 2.7.4. We are **not owners**; we are **stewards** of His possessions, & 1 day we must give an account of what we have done with what God has shared with us.
- 2.8. **PORTFOLIO PLANNING!** (3,4) [Portfolio – all the investments held by an individual]
- 2.9. **Can’t dig** – probably a case of **disinclination** not **disability**.
- 2.10. **Ashamed to beg** – That was good, but reeks of **pride**.
- 2.11. Soon to be **unemployed** he began to **plan for his future needs!**
- 2.11.1. He concocts a **scheme** to use his present position to make friends who would care for him when times got bad. (4b)
- 2.12. Rent was often paid to a landlord, not in **money**, but in **kind**. *This would have 2 effects:*
- 2.12.1. **First**, the debtors would be *grateful to him*.
- 2.12.2. **Second**, and much more effective, he had *involved the debtors*, if worst came to the worst, he was now in a strong position to exercise a little **judicious blackmail!**
- 2.13. **LET’S MAKE A DEAL!** (5-8)
- 2.14. He calls his employers debtors one by one & reduces their debt.
- 2.15. (8) When the **rich man** heard what he had done, he commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. {note: not Jesus, but this rich man commends him}
- 2.15.1. The dishonest manager had not done a good thing. But he had been careful to plan ahead, using material things to insure a secure future.
- 2.15.2. Jesus was not teaching that His disciples should be dishonest. He was teaching that they should use material things for future spiritual benefit.
- 2.15.3. This was a **good lesson** from a **bad example**.¹
- 2.15.4. Thus my title, **“A Bad Man’s God Example!”**
- 2.15.5. Maybe the rich man wasn’t too upset because now he would have the reputation as a man who put **principle** before **property**.
- 2.16. **Shrewdly** = a morally neutral term. *“common sense, keen foresight, practical intelligence, smarts, being prudent.”*

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). The Bible knowledge commentary.

- 2.17. **Sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation** – Pharisees & Scribes.
- 2.17.1. **Key** – only *in their generation*. [mark the limit to it]
- 2.17.2. They were wiser in carrying on their enterprises, **than** the sons of light are in carrying out theirs.
- 2.17.3. **These** only invest in this life, thus are better at it because it is their sole focus.
- 2.17.3.1. “They are **clever for today and fools forever!**” 😞 (Morgan)
- 2.18. **Sons of light** - the disciples.
- 2.18.1. Different both in motive & method.
- 2.18.2. **These** wisely make investments in the future kingdom.
- 2.19. **The worldly** are more creative in working toward their aims **than those enlightened**.
- 2.19.1. Many well-intentioned people are bound, when seeking solutions, by lack of imagination, freedom and grounding in reality. ²
- 2.19.2. **The people of this world** are much better at seeing opportunities and profiting from them, **than** are the children of God.
- 2.19.3. Eph.5:15-17 “**Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore don’t be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is**”
- 2.20. **If only the Christian** was an **eager** and **ingenious** in his attempt to attain goodness as the man of the world is in his attempt to attain money and comfort, he would be a much better man. ³
- 2.21. **If only men** would give as much attention to the things which concern their **souls** as they do to the things which concern their **business**, they would be much better men.
- 2.21.1. Over and over again a man will expend 20 x’s the amount of time and money and effort on “*his pleasure, his hobby, his garden, his sport*” as he does on his church.
- 2.21.2. Our Christianity will begin to be **real and effective** only when we spend as much time and effort on it as we do on our worldly activities.
- 2.21.3. Money is not **immoral**. Money is entirely **non-moral**.
- 2.21.3.1. There is **no evil** in money & there is **no good** in it.
- 2.21.3.2. It can be used for **both**.
- 2.21.3.3. It can be used to **blast** our own souls, & others around us;
Or to bless our own souls, & those around us.
- 2.21.4. John Wesley’s motto regarding money, “**Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can.**”
- 2.22. Jesus urges his followers not to use the materials of this world in a **wicked way**, but for **noble ends**. ⁴

²Stern, D. H. (1992). Jewish New Testament commentary :

³ William Barclay; Luke 16.

- 2.23. **FUTURE INVESTMENTS!** (9-13)
- 2.24. (9) We do not **buy friends**, but we can **make friends** for the Lord, by the wise use of money!
- 2.24.1. “The world measures people by how **much they get**, but God measures them by how **much they give**.”
- 2.24.2. Money can be used now in ways that create an **eternal fellowship**.
- 2.24.3. When life comes to an end, the wisdom of **lasting investments** will become **clear!**
- 2.24.4. **Q:** Are there any who have gone on, who are likely to want to see us when we arrive, because of the use we made on their behalf of **our wealth?**
- 2.24.5. **The Rabbis** had a saying, “**The rich help the poor in this world, but the poor help the rich in the world to come.**”
- 2.24.6. **Ambrose**, commenting on the rich fool who built bigger barns to store his goods, said, “**The bosoms of the poor, the houses of widows, the mouths of children are the barns which last forever.**”
- 2.24.7. A man’s true wealth would consist not in what he **kept**, but in what he **gave away**.
- 2.25. **Receive you into an everlasting home – Will people welcome you to heaven because your stewardship made it possible for them to hear the gospel & be saved?**⁵
- 2.25.1. Jesus did not commend the manager’s **dishonesty**, **but** he did point to the manager’s **initiative & foresight in *planning for the future***.
- 2.25.2. **How would this play out in our day & age?** [here’s an example]
- 2.25.2.1. **Watch Video – Car Lot.** [Sermonspice.com “The Car Lot”]
- 2.26. (10-12) Jesus did not see a *great gulf* fixed between the **material** and the **spiritual**, for one of the most spiritual things we can do is use **material things** to the glory of God in the winning of the lost.⁶
- 2.27. If one is faithful in his use of money, then he can be trusted with **greater things**.
- 2.27.1. **True riches** seem to refer to the kingdom’s **spiritual riches** of which the disciples will partake.
- 2.28. (13) Emphasis is on the word **serve!**
- 2.28.1. **When money masters a man it blasts him; When God masters a man, He makes him.**
- 2.28.2. When **God** masters a man, the man does not abandon his money, he masters his money, & he makes it lay up dividends for eternity.
- 2.28.2.1. With it he **blesses humanity & glorifies God!**
- 2.28.3. **On the other hand the man mastered by money will patronize God, & make a convenience of Him.**

⁴Stern, D. H. (1992). Jewish New Testament commentary :

⁵ Wiersbe; With The word; pg.680.

⁶Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1992). Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament (185). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

- 2.28.4. The **Pharisees & Scribes** love themselves & therefore loved money; **Jesus loved God**, & therefore He loved man.
- 2.29. “Money is a **wonderful servant, a terrible master, & an abominable god.**”
- 2.30. The master possessed the slave, and possessed him **exclusively**.
- 2.30.1. **Nowadays** it's different, a workman can quite easily do 2 jobs and work for 2 people. Back then it was exclusive!
- 2.30.2. Serving God can never be a **part-time** or a **spare-time** job.
- 2.31. Remember one day money & possessions will be useless.
- 2.31.1. **60 seconds** after a man is dead he cannot sign a check!
- 2.31.2. It's a poor thing to hang on to money until we are dead. **Make use of it now. How?** Make friends by means of it, & when it fails, in that very moment, when your hand is no longer able to sign checks, they, the friends you've made, shall greet you in the eternal tabernacles.
- 2.31.3. Money can be used **now** in ways that create an eternal fellowship.
- 2.31.4. **\$1900** was collected on “*Dollar Days*” last Sunday for the Homeless in our area!}
- 2.32. Once a man chooses to serve God every moment of his time and every atom of his energy belongs to God. **God is the most exclusive of masters. We either belong to him totally or not at all.**