
“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 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 Pharoah)  
   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.”

Sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation – Pharisees & Scribes.

Key – only in their generation. [mark the limit to it]

They were wiser in carrying on their enterprises, than the sons of light are in carrying out theirs.

These only invest in this life, thus are better at it because it is their sole focus.

"They are clever for today and fools forever!" (Morgan)

Sons of light - the disciples.

Different both in motive & method.

These wisely make investments in the future kingdom.

The worldly are more creative in working toward their aims than those enlightened.

Many well-intentioned people are bound, when seeking solutions, by lack of imagination, freedom and grounding in reality.

The people of this world are much better at seeing opportunities and profiting from them, than are the children of God.

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”

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.

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.

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.

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.

Money is not immoral. Money is entirely non-moral.

There is no evil in money & there is no good in it.

It can be used for both.

It can be used to blast our own souls, & others around us; Or to bless our own souls, & those around us.

John Wesley’s motto regarding money, “Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can.”

Jesus urges his followers not to use the materials of this world in a wicked way, but for noble ends.

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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.

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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.