

Take Charge: Part 1- You're a Tool
Luke 16:1-12

1. ME

2. Welcome/Cards/Online
3. What would you do with a billion dollars?
 1. Money is so useful... what makes something useful? It can be used for a purpose
 2. Uses: Hospitals/schools/medicine/research/homes/clean water/food/etc.

4. Money can add purpose to life but it is not the purpose of life.

5. WE

6. Becomes a problem when we make it the purpose of life.
 1. We all (no matter how much or little) think if we just had a little more money we'd be happier.
 2. And we can let that pursuit of the happiness money can buy control us and become our life's purpose.
 3. And never be satisfied/HAPPY... always "needing" a little more.

7. If your life's purpose is money, your life won't have much purpose

8. Funeral- Talk about how much stuff you had or how much love you had?
9. Happiness doesn't come from having stuff/ vacations/ everything you want...
10. It comes from having purpose... making the lives around you better.

11. Using your life for a purpose outside of yourself is what gives your life purpose.

12. Money can help add that kind of purpose to your life... but you have to know how to use it properly.

13. That's why Jesus talked about money so much
 1. More than heaven... Almost ½ of parables about money and possessions.
 2. Unlike many preachers... Never asked for any.
14. And Jesus taught that when you begin seeing your life's purpose as something bigger than yourself... you start seeing and using your money differently too.

15. GOD (Luke 16:1-12)

16. Parables
 1. Fictional stories with a point
 2. Someone always represents GOD/US

17. At first read, this one is one of the strangest Jesus ever told

18. V. 1-2

1. "Once upon a time"
2. Rich man- God / Manager- Us
3. Rich man had so much money that he hired someone to manage it for him
4. Finds out his manager is mismanaging (embezzling, etc.)
5. "What's this I hear...?"
6. "You're done. Finish up and then show me the books."

19. V. 3

1. "What am I going to do **NOW?**"
2. Had no other skills
3. Had his pride...
4. But he also has a limited window of time and opportunity to figure something out.
5. Has to do something quick so that when he gets fired he'll be ok

20. V. 4

1. Thinks hard
2. Comes up with a pretty ingenious plan so that when the stuff hits the fan he'll still have somewhere to go and something to live on.

21. V. 5-7

1. "Each one of"- must have been many.
2. Tells us about two...
3. "Quickly"- let's do this now... there isn't a lot of time
4. "We need to take advantage of this opportunity now!"
5. Cuts bill in ½
6. Debtor- "Wow what a deal!" "If you ever need anything from me..."
7. He does it over and over and over.
8. Getting on the good side of everyone the Master was doing business with.

22. What is the crowd thinking here?

1. Probably the same things you are
2. Depends who you side with...
3. Smart guy- stick it to the rich man/ lucky debtor/ this guy is terrible!
4. One thing that everyone agrees on is the Master is going to be mad!
5. This guy is going to jail for worse...

6. But Jesus always twists things just enough just enough to get our attention and make us look deeper into what he's saying...

23. V. 8a (just first sentence)

1. Instead of being mad... the master laughs!
2. "Wow! You got me! That was clever! I'm impressed."
3. The manager acted shrewdly... He had purposefully thought through his situation and took full advantage of his limited time and opportunity.

24. And everyone is completely confused

1. "I would have him punished! He wasted that man's money!"
2. But **God views money and wealth differently than we do**

25. V. 8b

1. "The people of this world..."
2. The people who believe there is nothing more to this life than this life
3. The people who live as though this world and what you can get in it is all that matters...
4. "Are more shrewd"- Are more thoughtful. Give their wealth and what they are doing with it more attention

5. **Than the children of the light**- At that time the Jewish people... but can be said of everyone that follows Jesus

6. Jesus is saying... The people who don't think there is an ultimate purpose in this world are more purposeful with their wealth than the people who know that what we do here matters for eternity.

7. And then Jesus gives his followers a command.

8. **Not a JF?**- Don't have to do anything.
 - a. I'm in no way telling you what to do.
 - b. I think this will make your life better... but you are free and clear here.

9. JF? Jesus is about to look you right in the eyes and says...

26. V. 9

27. "I tell you..." command.
28. **USE** your wealth... it's a useful tool
29. To gain friends... to make lives better
30. So that when it is gone.
 - a. It will be gone someday... actually YOU will be gone someday.
31. You will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.
32. Eternal dwellings? Interesting.
33. Jesus is saying that somehow, what we do with our material wealth and possessions HERE and NOW makes a difference in and for eternity.
34. And I'd say that's crazy and I wouldn't take it very seriously except for one thing...
35. If someone can predict... and come back from the dead under their own power... I'm going to listen to them about anything that has to do with what happens after we leave this place.
36. And Jesus is saying what we do NOW with what we have NOW... directly affects what happens then.

37. How we use our money NOW makes a difference FOREVER.

38. We can't take it with us... but we can have something to show for it beyond our life.

39. The manager took full advantage of his limited time and opportunity.
 1. Jesus is telling his followers to do the same.
 2. We only have so much time and opportunity to make a difference/ have a life of purpose.
 3. Jesus says, don't just worry about this life... use your life and what you have for a bigger/eternal purpose.
 4. The question every JF needs to ask is... how can I use more of what I have for a purpose that isn't me?
 5. Why?

40. V. 10-11

41. According to Jesus... no matter how much you have... your money/wealth/possessions is a test.
42. What you do with your money shows who you truly are and what purpose you're living for.

43. The true test of who we are is what we do with our money.

44. Jesus goes on...

45. V. 12

1. Someone else's property?
2. "No it's mine. I worked hard for it."
3. Be honest... your money will still be here when you're gone.
4. You don't own it. You're managing it... temporarily
5. At the very least you're managing it for your kids and their kids
6. If you're a JF, you're managing it for the King who died for you.
7. What are you going to do with the limited amount of time and opportunity you have NOW?

46. YOU

47. So if you're a JF, or maybe if you're just tired of the greed you see around you and maybe feel inside of you...
1. Here's a question I think we need to chew on for a while...
 2. You don't have to do anything or give anything... yet.
48. If using your life for a purpose outside of yourself is what gives your life purpose... what purpose do you want your life to be used for?
1. What do you want people to line up and thank you for at the end of your life?
 2. If you had a billion dollars... how would you make the world a better place?... why not start now?
 3. At this point in our world's history... we are some of the richest people to ever exist...
49. **We have a tremendous opportunity to show tremendous generosity.**
50. Will you use it... or squander it?
51. How do we take advantage of this opportunity?
1. Simple/practical/difficult idea... **Choose now, what percentage you will live on.**
 2. Decide now what percentage will be used for your lifestyle and what percentage will be used as a tool to help someone else's life.
 3. We all live on a percentage... why not choose it on purpose?
 4. Something Liz and I grew up doing and have done ever since we were married.
 5. Why choose beforehand? You have to be purposeful for your money to be used on purpose
 6. Hoarding, consuming, waste... nobody chooses to do these on purpose... they just happen when you don't decide what purpose your life and your money will be used for.

52. WE

53. Here's a final question... what will give your life more purpose... more stuff or more stories?
1. Do you want more things collecting dust/rust/crust... or do you want to be able to tell more stories of lives being changed? Of your life having a purpose outside of yourself?
54. **Your generosity** (Thank you)
1. **Parking lot**... everyone who drives in here is now part of your story.
 2. **Every Child**...
 3. **Regular Church Giving**... everyone sitting here, who watches online, who hears that God is for them... Is part of your story... and you are part of their story.
 4. Until there is no more CCC... every man, woman, and child (maybe your own great grandchild) who hears the truth of how much Jesus loves them is part of your story.
 5. And I'll bet the money you've given... you don't even miss it do you? You have no idea what you could've done with it
 6. But for the rest of your life you can look back and see the difference your money made.
 7. You used it on purpose for a purpose and are part of a story that will last all of eternity.
55. So at the end of your life... do you want more stories or more stuff?
56. Why not turn your stuff into stories?
57. Choose on purpose what the purpose of your stuff will be.
58. **The purpose of money is to use it for a purpose beyond you.**

Questions

1. What would you do with a billion dollars?
2. How was money managed (or mismanaged) in the household you grew up in? How has that affected you today?
3.
 - a. Why do you think people are uncomfortable talking about money?
 - b. Why do you think Jesus didn't shy from the topic? Read back over Luke 16:1-12 as an example. What do *you* notice?
4. What's one way you can turn your stuff into a story this month? This next year?

These seem pretty perfect to me! Nice job... AGAIN!!