

## Think Again . . . Reconnecting with Jesus

KSBC 09/07/08

Thinking Again About Money

Luke 16:1-13

**INTRO** The longer we follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior the easier it is to fall into patterns and habits that may be both disobedient and ineffective because we have not given serious thought to what Jesus really teaches or requires. We do tend to compare ourselves with others. We evaluate ourselves based on our past behaviors. We take comfort in past battles won. A sense of staleness invades our faith expression that is barely noticeable to even the closest observer.

We find ourselves back in Luke's gospel this morning because we want to be challenged to think again about our submission to Christ and reconnect with his teaching in some basic areas of our lives. This theme of careful consideration of the intensity of our commitment to Christ is a major focus of Christ's teaching.

Recall with me the last section of study from Luke's gospel that we enjoyed this past May and June. In the middle of his challenging call to connect with sinners, he reminds us of the danger of listening, hearing and then not doing anything to conform our lives to his teaching (14:34-35). Chapters 14 and 15 teach us that Christianity without a growing and radical commitment of a singular focus on Christ is like salt without saltiness. Your impact for the gospel comes from this connection to Christ.

Money, marriage, the Scriptures, forgiveness and gratitude . . . all subjects Jesus teaches about with the subtle and powerful directive to think again, consider carefully. You may think you are hearing and doing his will, but Jesus wants you to think again. Let's think again with him about money from chapter 16:1-13.

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God's children, who will enjoy a future eternal kingdom, should be at least as diligent in assessing the long term impact of their actions as those who do not know God are in protecting their earthly well-being.

The shrewdness of the steward is seen in his thinking ahead, acting decisively and maximizing his future interests. He was calculatingly driven by the desire for a certain return on his investment.

According to Jesus, it is possible that we are in fact too earthly minded to be or do any earthly good.

<b>The Application</b>	9-13
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Think again about your money . . . God pleasing shrewdness is defined in these questions:

**1. Are you intentionally generous? V.9**

Do you share generously because you have given serious thought to 3 truths?

- Your money/stuff can help people go to heaven.
- Your money/stuff can influence you away from God.
- Your money/stuff will some day be worthless to you.

**2. Are you decisively faithful? V.10-12**

Do you share faithfully because you have already decided that . . .

- Sharing your money/stuff reflects your true character? 10
- Sharing your money/stuff brings God's blessings? 11-12

**3. Are you exclusively devoted? V.13**

Do you share devotedly because you are committed to . . .

- Loving God exclusively.
- Serving God exclusively.

Illus. 'investment' story of Macedonians 2Cor 8-9

Illus. 'investment' in general fund, grace fund, student ministry center

Shrewdness is displayed in your generous, faithful and devoted giving to God and his work.

**Striving to hear and do . . .**

1. Plan to 'think again' about these things with spouse or friends.
2. Repent of indecision and lack of planning in your approach to giving.
3. Surrender your life to obey and serve God by believing on Jesus Christ.