

Today in View of Tomorrow

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 16:1-14



Big Idea

As Christians, we ought to be prioritizing our life in view of the kingdom of God and the great realities of heaven and hell, sin and judgment, grace and redemption, etc. Those ought to be the impending realities of tomorrow that constrain and guide the way we handle ourselves today!

(1) Getting Straight the Story (vv. 1-7)

This manager is wasteful and irresponsible (v. 1), slothful and proud (vv. 2-3), self-centered and manipulative (vv. 4-7).

(2) Airing out the Question (v. 8a)

And yet he is *commended*?! He is commended not for his dishonesty, but for his shrewdness. In view of the approaching dilemma—namely, that he was going to lose his job and be kicked out onto the street—he did something to prepare for it. He ordered today's affairs in view of tomorrow's crisis. He made arrangements so that he would be ready to handle it. Here is the exemplary point. It's not *what* he decided to do per se, but *that* he decided to do something. He caught wind of impending trouble and ordered his life in light of it. Whatever else that may be, it is most certainly shrewd.

(3) Making Plain the Point (vv. 8b-14)

Stairstep #1: Verse 8b—What we have here is a lesser-to-greater, a how-much-more, argument that we see Jesus often makes use of, even with some of his other parables. If I could simply sum up what He is getting at here in v. 8, I would put it like this: if even this worldly scoundrel, this “son of this world” (as Jesus refers to him), knows how to order his daily affairs in view of tomorrow and its coming crisis, how much more should the children of God, the “sons of light” (as Jesus calls them) be ordering their lives in view of eternity and the coming day of judgment?

Stairstep #2: Verse 9—Heaven is heaven, ultimately, not because there are streets of gold or mansions in the sky, or whatever else. Heaven is heaven because at long last we shall, in Christ, be fully received as a friend of God and we shall live together under the sunshine of His smiling face forever. “Enter into the joy of your master.” That's what the human heart is longing for. And that is what Jesus is saying we must now be living for.

Stairstep #3: Verses 10-12—All of life is stewardship. It is all God's gift to us. Our money. Our possessions. Our jobs. Our spouses. Our kids. Our breath. So what are we doing with it? That is the most pressing question here. Are we living like we're going to give an account to the Owner of these things for how we've treated them? Are we handling all of this in the way that the Master of the house would be happy with?

Stairstep #4: Verse 13—Does God have your heart or does money? You can't divide your loyalties on this point. There is no room for both/and. It's either/or. Either you will release your money and worldly wealth in service of God or you will try to manipulate God into serving your love for money and wealth.

Reflection Questions



- Read through the text again. What questions do you still have? Where are you still confused? How would you attempt to interpret these things?
- Have you been spiritually “shrewd” lately? Have you been ordering today's affairs in view of the great tomorrow (i.e. the final judgment, heaven, eternity)? If not, what needs to change?
- In what ways are you prone to chase after and serve money? Why do you think? What does it promise you? How have you already experienced money “failing” you in this (v. 9). How does the gospel offer all of this and more to you in a lasting way?