

I. Intro

A. Many parables in The Gospel of Luke

1. Some teach from positive examples – lost coin, lost sheep, prodigals
2. Some teach from negative examples – barren fig tree, prodigal's brother
3. Luke 16 contains two parables with negative examples

B. What I appreciate most about parables like this:

1. Reminds us that the whole world is a classroom
 - a) You can learn from good kings AND bad kings
 - b) You can learn from good examples AND bad examples
2. I don't need "just the right ingredients" for God to make a delicious cake
 - a) If my eyes are on Him, I can see Him teaching
 - b) If my ear is tuned to Him, I can hear him speaking

II. Text

A. Luke 16:1-3

1. Jesus speaks a parable to His disciples
 - a) Rich man fires his wasteful manager
 - b) Manager panics – what will he do?
2. How will the manager secure his future?

B. Luke 16:4

1. The manager will secure his future through generosity
2. Generosity in the form of repaid favors

C. Luke 16:5-7

1. The wasteful manager turns out to be dishonest too
 - a) Reduces debt that everyone owes!
 - b) Builds up favors with the debtors – secures a future
 - c) Makes rich man look very generous
2. Manager bets everything on generosity
 - a) Generosity of debtors who owe him a favor
 - b) Generosity of rich man who won't throw him in jail

(1) *Jail time for a benevolent act looks cruel

D. Luke 16:8-13

1. Rich man applauds dishonest manager
 - a) Secured a future for himself
 - b) Increased popularity of the rich man
2. *Point of this parable – behold the negative example*
 - a) *Men of this world use the money of this world to secure a future*
 - b) *How much more should we use our resources to secure God's kingdom?*
3. *Invest earthly wealth and resources in God's kingdom*
 - a) *Use finances to build relationships – think groceries, ministry, missions*
 - b) *Finances go away, but investments last for eternity*
 - (1) *Think of the souls reached by supporting missions*
 - (2) *Think of lives touched when you give to a local church*
4. *Be good stewards of your money*
 - a) *Trains us to manage even more*
 - b) *Reveals who you serve*

E. Luke 16:14-18

1. Pharisees mock Jesus – Jesus addresses their disconnect
 - a) You say you love the law, but you don't obey the law
 - b) You say you read the prophets, but you are missing the one they spoke of
 - c) Your disobedience to law and prophets is seen in money and marriage
2. Vs 18 is a "for example" to the Pharisees
 - a) Regularly issued divorce certificates so spouses could marry another
 - b) Adultery masquerading and divorce
3. *Mismanaging things like money and marriage reveals your heart*
 - a) *Can't love your God and worship money*
 - b) *Can't love your God and sleep with another man's wife*
 - c) *Can't claim Biblical authority when the Bible is against you*

F. Luke 16:19-31

1. Jesus gives another parable with negative examples
 - a) Lived in luxury and ignored suffering
 - b) Punished for eternity, but requested a sign to spare his family
 - c) Request was denied
2. Don't believe the prophets? – You won't believe a resurrection
 - a) Parable addresses the Pharisee issue – we want a sign!
 - b) Addresses the issue from the negative – here is a guy who wanted a sign!
 - c) Don't believe God's Word, even resurrection won't convince you!
3. *This parable takes aim at the Pharisee way of life*
 - a) *Overly critical, always critiquing, judging intentions and motives*
 - b) *Focus on detail but never consider meaning*
 - c) *Infatuation with how, but missing the what*
 - d) *Looking at prophecy, reading the Bible, but missing Jesus*

III. Conclusion

- A. *Chapter is a tale of caution – parables with negative examples*
 1. *Warn us about wandering into excess*
 2. *Warn us about serving multiple masters*
 3. *Warn us of the Pharisee spirit*
- B. *However, more than a warning*
 1. *Warning to avoid one thing, but invitation to embrace something else*
 - a) *Embrace the world as a classroom*
 - b) *Behold your circumstances with fresh eyes*
 - c) *Don't write off a negative thing as unhelpful or a waste of time*
 2. *Even negative parables have lessons to learn*
- C. *Therefore, heed the caution – but hear the lesson*
 1. *Don't be so quick to dismiss pain or trials*
 2. *Don't be so quick to think "I can't learn from this moment or teacher"*
 3. *Christ could be speaking and teaching through that negative experience?*
 4. *Take notes brothers and sisters, take good notes!*