



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Money and Eternity**  
Speaker: **Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor**  
Scriptures: **Luke 16: 1-13**

### **The Parable of the Shrewd Manager**

16 Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 2 So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

3 “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— 4 I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

5 “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

6 “‘Nine hundred gallons[a] of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

7 “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels[b] of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

8 “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

13 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

## **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Pastor Rich will wrap up our series on finances. We will explore Jesus's surprising words on money through a very unconventional parable.

## **Sermon Questions:**

1. Pastor Rich explains that Jesus tells the story of the shrewd manager to point out that Christians are to be stewards recognizing all they have are God's resources entrusted to them. Imagine with the group: what could a life seeing all you have as God's resources look like? Where do you struggle, and where is it easy, to view your resources as God's?
2. Jesus commands us to use our wealth (money and possessions) as a tool to shape eternity. What God has given us is for the sake of blessing others. Reflect: How can I bless someone with my money? my house/apartment? my car or \_\_\_\_\_?
3. The story shares that our time is short – a time is coming when this opportunity to steward will end. In eternity we will see that our stewardship of God's resources made a difference that is seen in eternity. There will be people who were impacted on earth by our stewardship. What feels inviting, inspiring or perhaps challenging? Have you been the recipient of this kind of stewardship?
4. When asked if we are growing spiritually we often answer with how we are doing in spiritual disciplines like prayer or reading the Bible. Jesus lets us know that the definitive test might be how we deal with the money we have. With this in mind, would you say that you have grown spiritually?
5. This week was the close of this sermon series on money. Read Matthew 6:24 together. What is a takeaway from this series that you are holding onto?

Consider closing with this prayer together:

### **Prayer of Generosity**

Father, you are an abundant giver.  
There is nothing that I have that you have not given me.  
The way of your kingdom is the way of generosity.  
Help us to honor you with our resources.  
Free us from the deceit of riches.  
Lead us on the path of generosity.  
For you glory, Lord,  
for the abundance of our own lives,  
and for the sake of others.  
Amen.