Jesus Unfiltered - **WK 6 – Fool’s Gold**

**If you could go back and change anything – what would it be for you?**

**Not just a thing you did – but maybe something you did not do.**

**We have been in the parables of Jesus – his unfiltered – take on life, love, heaven, hell, eternity, and the kingdom of God.**

**# 1 way Jesus taught - parables. 1/3 of teachings. Today a sacred cow tipping – an obscure - parable rarely ever heard**

**About a man – who got to change his future.**

**PARABLE of the SMART MANAGER**

**Luke 16:1 Jesus told his disciples: (this is a teaching for his followers – if you are a Christian, this is for you. If you are not – this is what we are about) “There was a rich man whose manager (steward) was accused of wasting his possessions.**

**Starts off with this God is the rich man - we are the manager**

1. **We are simply managers – God is the owner.**

**Everything we have belongs to the Lord. We see this again and again in scriptures. 1st lesson of life & finances - God owns it all.**

**1 Chronicles 29:11** **Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. 12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.**

**Psalm 24:1The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. / Psalm 89:11 The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all it contains, You have founded them.**

**We are stewards – entrusted with Gods resources for his glory**

**Lu 16:2 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.’**

1. **We will give an account to God for what we have been given**

**We will all answer to God for how we used what He has given us. We will all give account to how we use our time, talents, and treasures.**

**Are you wasting what God has given you?**

**Lu 16:3 “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. (I’m getting fired) 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.’ (An Ah Ha moment) 5 “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ (How much debt do you have) 6 “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’ (Submit what you have to the master) 7 “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ (again – submit what you have to the master)**

**What did he do? He started a debt relief program. He helped people get out of debt – in hope of having their favor later on.**

**8 “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. (Smart) For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. (Jesus side note - commented that then – and now – often non-Christians are better with money than many Christians. More wise, bold, forward thinking)**

**Why was that man considered smart (shrewd) by Jesus?**

**A spiritual principle and a financial principle in this parable**

**Spiritual principle: Debt represents sin. Knowing they could never pay off their debt, he instructed them to bring what they had to the master. Knowing the master would receive them.**

**BTW – God deals with our debt of sin same today – we can’t pay it, bring what you have. Jesus will receive you.**

**Financial principle: If we pursued the Kingdom of God with the same determination and zeal that the people of this world pursue profits and pleasure, we would live in an entirely different world.**

**Oaxaca (wahaka) Mts. of Mexico - no Bible but every month Coca Cola / Levi venders make 2 hour drive to sell soda & jeans. Children of this world are more shrewd than the children of light.**

**Jesus goes on - Luke 16:9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.**

**This is not about using money to make friends. But a reference to building friends (followers of Christ) –Thus, the eternal reward that follows. This is about using our resources to plan for eternity.**

**16:10 “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.**

**Know this - whether you have a little or a lot is not the issue. You will be held accountable regardless of your income bracket.**

**Haiti teaching on generosity – tithe their shoes and shirts.**

**You can be poor and still be greedy, stingy, and consumed by money.**

**The challenge - If you cannot be a faithful steward of a little how can you expect to ever be trusted with more?**

**Likewise with the Kingdom of God – 16:11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? (eternity) 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? (Jesus is reminding them again that our riches belong to God - we must see ourselves as managing His resources)**

1. **Our attitude towards stewardship is crucial to our walk with God**

**How we view and use our resources is a direct response of our relationship w/ God. Reflected in our priorities, pursuits, & generosity**

**Jesus continues - 16:13 “No one can serve two masters. (It is impossible) 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.”**

**Many spend their whole life working for the wrong boss – money**

**Many say they love God but their money says differently.**

**2 Timothy 6:9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money (not money – the love of money) is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (some people are money possessed) 11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue (we chase diff things) righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called…**

**We live life and spend life with eternity in mind.**

**Pharisees nearby were listening in - Luke 16:14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. 15 He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. (You can not fool God – you sit here being cool – but God knows where your heart is in this) What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.**

1. **God values things differently than us**

**Godonomics – Jesus unfiltered – life is upside down.**

**Listen - Jesus wants us / you - to be wildly rich / crazy rich / blow your mind rich… in heaven**

**Jesus says - Lay up (store up) your treasures in heaven (Matt 6:20)**

**Be rich - Just don’t put it here.**

**Our Nissan is not going with me to heaven, or my TV, or my record / cassette collection, Micky Mantle Ball, 1650 first edition Bible leaf… They’re not bad - understand why you have them – to point to God!**

**We spend our life – chasing fool’s gold – shinny things.**

**Avoiding Fool’s Gold: Financial planning according to Jesus**

1. **The end of our life is a myth - plan for beyond death**

**Matthew 6:19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Jesus again v24 “You cannot serve both God & money.”**

**We try to plan life to death (school, investments, careers, etc.) If I could just do this. But when we are done – it stays here.**

**1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.**

**Realize this – you will live forever. When this earthly part is over –we have a new chapter. This is a temp job. We live forever. Why plan for this short part of our life? Jesus is telling us it’s foolish.**

**This life is simply a resume for what we do in eternity**

**Luke 16:10-12,19:17-19, Matthew 5:12, 25:21-23, Genesis 1:28, 2 Timothy 2:12, Luke 22:28-30, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, Revelation 22:5 Matthew 13:43, Romans 8:16-17, Isaiah 9:7, Daniel 7:15-28, Revelation 2:26, 3:21, 5:9-10, 7:13-15, 20:4-6**

**What we have been given in this life - abilities, jobs, income, careers, homes, possessions, are on loan from God to invest to glorify God. Investing in a return in this life is fool’s Gold.**

**That is why he says – Luke 16:10 “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, (temp stuff) who will trust you with true riches? (eternity) 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? (How can I trust you with eternal things if you can’t handle worldly things)**

**This is not an anti-stuff parable, this is a pro-kingdom parable.**

**Test Q: Which one are you sacrificing for, this life or eternity?**

1. **The only investments that count are people (Ma 5:13-16, 1 Pet 2:11-12)**

**This is the heart of this parable – the resources of this life end in this life – but you can use them for the next life.**

**What we have been given, is given to invest in people to know the king and experience the Kingdom!**

**Ephesians 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.**

**This parable is about a smart man – investing in people.**

**Jesus is telling us any other investment – is foolish.**

**Jesus told them - Lu 16:9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.**

**Use what you have to invest in people to be in the future kingdom. When you get there, they will welcome & thank you!**

**That’s one of the reasons I love Livingway – our church and our people. Investing in eternity.**

1. **It’s never too late to start.**

**The man in story got smart - when he saw that he was about to get fired. It was a wake-up call. You’re only a fool if you keep putting it off.**

**It was when he was faced with the reality of his future that he started thinking about how to honor his master*.***

**How do we do that? How do we honor God, bring him glory and invest in eternity? By Investing our time, talents, and treasures in the eternal.**

**Kingdom work – tithe / offerings / special giving / mission support. What we have is a tool.**

**Tips For Godly Investing - for Disciples only: (Luke 16:19-31, Matt 10:16)**

* **Investing is easier when we realize it isn’t our money**

**When you realize this – everything changes. This is the foundation.**

* **Tithing is the antidote for the poison of materialism**

**Tithing is the kick start to our generosity.**

**\* Find a church, you can believe in – and partner with them.**

* **Connect with something your heart connects to**

**Ministries that expand the kingdom, honor God, and flow from a local church. \*\* Not all so called “ministries” - are eternal investments.**

* **Be strategic about your investments, and set goals**

**Compassion Int, Mission of Hope Haiti, Rally International (Congo), Indigenous Missions, international Justice mission, Union Gospel Mission, Matthew 25, young Life.**

**Start with one – and add as God blesses you.**

**Test Q - What would those closest to me say my ministry is?**

* **Live a generous life**

**Release the stuff – you’re just a manager. Steward it responsibly.**

**Next week a tough parable similar to this one I want to end with –**

**Luke 19:** **11 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. 12 He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. 13 So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’**

**There is an expectation to use what we have been given**

**The Parable follows the servant’s responses:**

**\* Some did well with it – because they tried – they made the effort.**

**\* But one – hid it away – And was punished severely.**

**There is an expectation to use what we have been given**

**A story I heard about a father and his son at Chuckie Cheese. He gets tokens – let’s play some games. No, I want to keep the gold. But we can play together, win tickets, and take home prizes… no, I want the Gold. Look, it’s got a Rats’ face on it and it’s only good while you’re here. Once you leave… it’s worthless. Now, what do you want to do with it. I want to keep the gold, it’s shinny. What a waste.**

**Listen - the tokens in this life are fool’s gold. They have a rat’s face on it. Put it use now and receive a treasure later or leave it behind.**

**We will be held accountable to how we managed his riches.**

**I pray we all learn to value what Jesus values.**