### Luke

## Chapter 16

1Then [Jesus] went on to say this to his disciples:  
  
 ‘There was a rich man who had a house manager that was accused of mishandling his belongings. 2So [the rich man] called him in and asked:  
  
 ‘What’s this that I’m hearing about you?  
 Turn in your things! You’re not managing [my] house anymore!’  
  
 3‘Then the [house manager] thought to himself:  
  
 ‘What should I do now that my master is taking away my position? I’m not strong enough to dig and I’d be too ashamed to beg.  
  
 4‘Ah! I know what I’ll do when I lose my job… I’ll do something to make people welcome me into their homes!’  
  
 5‘So he called in everyone who owed debts to his master, and he asked the first one:  
  
 ‘How much do you owe my master?’  
  
 6‘He replied:  
  
 ‘900 gallons (3,400l) of olive oil.’  
  
 ‘Then he told him:  
  
 ‘Here, take your contract, then sit down and quickly write 450.’  
  
 7‘Then asked the next:  
  
 ‘How much do you owe?’  
  
 ‘And he replied:  
  
 ‘36,000 quarts (34,000l) of wheat.’  
  
 ‘So he told him:  
  
 ‘Take your contract and write 29,000.’  
  
 8‘Well, although [what he’d done] was unrighteous, his master praised him, because he showed very good sense.  
  
 ‘As you can see, the sons of this age are better at understanding how to deal with this people than the sons of light.  
  
 9‘Therefore, I’m telling you to befriend unrighteous wealth, so that when everything else fails, they’ll welcome you into their tents throughout the ages.  
  
 10‘For the one who’s faithful in little things  
 Will also be faithful in much.  
 But the one who’s unrighteous in little things  
 Will also be unrighteous in much!  
  
 11‘So if you fail to prove that you’re faithful  
 With the unrighteous wealth [of this world]...  
 Who will trust you with things that are true?  
 12And if you fail to prove that you’re faithful  
 With things belonging to others...  
 Who of us will trust you with our things?  
  
 13‘You can’t slave for two [different] masters;  
 For you’ll dislike one and you’ll love the other,  
 And you’ll stick to one while despising the other…  
 So you can’t slave for both God and wealth.’  
  
  
14Now, the Pharisees (who loved silver) were listening to him as he was saying these things, and they were looking at him with contempt.  
  
15So he said to them:  
  
 ‘You claim to be righteous before men, but God knows what’s really in your hearts; and things that are important to men are disgusting in God’s eyes.  
  
 16‘Until John [came along], we had the Law and the Prophets. However, since then, what’s been preached is the Kingdom of God – and everyone has been trying to force their way into it.  
  
 17‘Yet, it’d be easier for the land and sky to pass away than for a single stroke on one of the Law’s letters to fail!  
  
 18‘Therefore, whoever releases his wife and takes some other [woman] has committed adultery. And whoever marries a released woman has also committed adultery.  
  
 19‘Now, there once was a very rich man who dressed himself in purple and linen, and he enjoyed the very best things each day.  
  
 20‘There was also a poor man named Lazarus who used to sit just outside of [the rich man’s] porch. This [poor] man was covered with sores, 21and all he wanted was to eat some of the things that fell from the rich man’s table. Also, even dogs would come and lick his sores.  
  
 22‘Well, the poor man [eventually] died, and [God’s] messengers carried him off to the most-favored position of AbraHam.  
  
 ‘Then the rich man also died and was buried.  
  
 23‘But from the place of the dead he raised his eyes, and he was tormented when he saw AbraHam off in the distance with Lazarus lying before him.  
  
 24‘So [the rich man] called out and said:  
  
 ‘Father AbraHam, have mercy on me!  
  
 ‘Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water to cool off my tongue, for I’m suffering in these flames!  
  
 25‘But AbraHam replied:  
  
 ‘Child, remember that you had all the good things in life, while Lazarus [had just] the bad. So now he’s here [receiving my] comfort, while you are there suffering. 26Also, an abyss has been placed between us, so that those who are here can’t go there, and those who are there can’t come here.  
  
 27‘Well at that, [the rich man] said:  
  
 ‘Then I beg you… Please father, send him to the house of my father, 28for I have five brothers… Get him to warn them what happened, so they don’t end up in this place of torment!  
  
 29‘But AbraHam replied:  
  
 ‘They’ve already got the Prophets and Moses, [so your brothers] should listen to them!  
  
 30‘Then [the rich man] said:  
  
 ‘No indeed, Father AbraHam; for they’d surely repent if someone were to come to them from the dead!  
  
 31‘But [AbraHam] said:  
  
 ‘No! If they won’t listen to the Prophets or Moses, then they wouldn’t be persuaded even if someone rose from the dead!’