42-Luke-Pt19-Transcript

[Music] [Music]

Oh

yes right well welcome to Wednesday night Bible study and what you just saw there was a guy that was willing to win at all costs and there is something that we can learn from such an individual although we are admonished that we have to win by playing according to the rules but still even when people break the rules there are lessons that we can learn from them and that's something that we're going to see tonight in Luke chapter 16 I will open with a word of Prayer and then we'll get straight into the Bible study Heavenly Father we praise you and we thank you Lord and we certainly thank you for your word which is thousands of years old and which we now in these end times have the opportunity to read and understand and your word is a lamp to our feet it guides us and Father we ask for that guidance tonight as we continue in this wonderful Gospel according to Luke in chapter 16 a blesser understanding father we ask this in Jesus Holy Name Amen well let's get straight into Luke 16 and what it says here price was continuing his teaching to his disciples and he said there was a certain rich man which had a steward and that steward the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his Goods and he called him and said unto him how is it that I hear this of you you may no longer be steward so in other words you're fired then the steward said within himself what shall I do for my lord takes away from me the stewardship I cannot dig to beg I am

ashamed I am resolved what to do that when I am put out of the stewardship they may receive me into their houses so he called every one of his lords debtors unto him and set him to the first how much do you owe my lord and he said a hundred measures of oil and he said unto Him take your bill and sit down quickly and write fifty and he said to another how much do you owe and he said a hundred measures of eek of wheat and he said take your bill and write eighty and the Lord and this is what creates a lot of confusion the Lord commended the unjust steward because he had done wisely for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light so this parable creates a bit of confusion in the Christian world because clearly this is an unjust steward this is an unscrupulous man this is basically a criminal and Christ seems to be commending this criminal behavior and so what what exactly does this mean so we're going to unpack this and then try to make it clear and and to do that remember context is king that this this parable didn't just drop out of the sky it's not it doesn't stand alone it's part of the narrative that we've been following so I think to get some context here we'll just back up to where we were in chapter 14 so remember in chapter 14 Christ gave this remarkable statement that if any man comes to him and doesn't hate his father and mother and wife and children and brethren and sisters ves even his own life he cannot be Christ disciple so this was quite a remarkable statement many rabbis had disciples and many people were very keen as to which rabbi they would follow and be instructed by that particular rabbi but

now this rabbi comes on the scene with a very high standard that nothing nobody can come before him that even you have to hate your own life you have to be willing to die for him if you're going to be his disciple very clearly as a rabbi who is pointing people to God and pointing them away from idolatry he's making it very clear he is God and that if you're going to be his disciple nothing nobody can come before him we can't even put our own lives before him because that would be idolatry this is the context leading into Luke 16 and with this understanding we'll have a better understanding of what Christ is saying when we come to Luke 16 and then further down in Luke 14 he said so likewise whoever he be of you that doesn't forsake all that he has he cannot be my disciple so this is a very very tall order and and it's good for us he was instructing his disciples 2,000 years ago but by extension the instruction is also to us if we are going to call ourselves Christian if we are going to be followers of Christ he must be first he must be first and we must be willing to forsake all that we have in order to be true disciples now in Luke 15 where we were last week I remember there was a lot of feasting going on in Luke 15 but in the bottom half of Luke 15 there was this parable that not many days after it was about the prodigal son this younger son who had asked his father basically was saying to his father I wish you were dead already can I have my inheritance already and the father complied and gave him his half and then he squandered it and says not many days after the younger son gathered all together and took his

journey into a far country and there he wasted his substance with riotous living so he he was a prodigal son and he verse 27 and he said to him so this is now when he comes back and the older brother is now wondering what is going on there seems to be a kind of celebration going on and the servant said to the brother your younger brother has come and your father has killed the fatted calf and so you'll recall that we talked about the fatted calf so this was something that was being prepared for celebration and now that the Sun has come there's going to be this big celebration and many people are going to fact that the fatted calf is killed means many people are going to be coming to this celebration in a sense no expense is going to be spared to celebrate the the arrival and the return of this younger brother so the servant explains to the brother that the fatted calf has been killed and because he has received him safe and sound and then the older brother was angry and he would not go in there for his father came out and entreated him come on son and he answered and he answering said to his father look these many years I've served you and I have not another have I transgressed at any time your commandment and yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friend so he didn't want the fatted calf he doesn't want to invite everybody he just wants to invite his friends and would just like it if you could kill a goat in and enjoy his friends enjoy with his friends but as soon as this your son has come which has devoured your living with harlots you've killed it for him the fatted calf and he said to him son you're ever with me and all that I have

is yours so this is key to understanding that this is this comes immediately before Luke 16 and this line is key to understanding Luke 16 so here he's saying to the son that you've always been with me you've always been faithful and all that I have is yours and in verse 31 30 verse 31 actually is the critical verse to understanding chapter 16 in verse 31 the father says to the son son you're ever with me he acknowledged the sun's apparent faithfulness to him that he was loyally stayed with him as opposed to the younger son who took off and this is the phrase that that is the key to understanding chapter 16 he says and all that I have is yours all that I have is yours this is in fact very true because the younger son came to him and said to him dad I wish you were dead so I could have my inheritance now and the father's after some pressing the father finally said ok and if he had let's say a million dollars and let's say four hundred thousand belong to the younger son and six hundred thousand was for the oldest son he basically cashed out the four hundred thousand and gave it to the younger son and the younger son went and squandered it that's six hundred thousand that's left whatever of his property remains truly belongs to the older son the younger son has no share in that inheritance he spent his inheritance and so when the father says all that I have is yours this is in fact true it was appropriate however that we should make merry and be glad for this your brother was dead and he's alive again he was lost and now he's found we should make merry and so all through

chapter fifteen we saw this real juxtapositioning that Christ was doing between the mind of God and the mind of describes and Pharisees that the minds of the scribes and Pharisees were very selfish very stingy very self-centered and and they saw a harm where God saw joy God was rejoicing and the angels in heaven were rejoicing when one sinner repents never mind all the sinners that had repented and were listening to Christ and even after he warned them that you have to give up everything if you're going to be my disciple these people gave up everything they were willing to give up everything and follow Christ and so there was joy in heaven over their response the response of the scribes and Pharisees notwithstanding so with that then Christ in verse sixteen verse one Luke writes and he said also unto his disciples in other words this is a continuation of the same T what is the teaching that the way the Pharisees and the scribes think is completely different and in opposition to the way God thinks that's the teacher and so Christ is continuing that lesson as he now brings to his disciples another parable now this parable is completely fictitious priceless just making this up in order to make a point and so what is the parable there was a certain rich man which had a steward and that steward was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods this is a continuation of Luke chapter 15 where the older brother was accusing the father of wasting his goods that this everything that's left is mine and now you're taking my property and you're squandering it on my younger brother who already proved that he's worthless why are you doing this this is a terrible

thing that you're doing so Christ is now using this parable to explain the previous parable and how we should view the father and how we should view the older brother that the older brother is representative of the scribes and Pharisees and the father is representative of God the father the father is rejoicing over the fact that this sinner his younger son has repented and he's alive again and so there's great joy with the father as there is great joy in heaven with God the Father that's what Christ is explaining here and so he calls this the rich man who receives the report that the steward is wasting his goods he calls him and he says to him how is it that I hear this of you you know I trusted you and how am i hearing this this is the older brother in the field asking the servants what's going on give an account of your stewardship so the father is really a steward

of the property of the inheritance he's older he's dying this is now the thought this is now the sons inheritance and the son is asking the father give me an ax give me an account of your stewardship I want to get rid of you you're just you're just doing it all wrong but here I am so give an account of your stewardship for you may no longer be no longer steward in other words if this is true what I'm hearing of you I'm going to fire you so you better make good you need to prove to me that you've been faithful that you have managed my property properly so the steward knows he's been unfaithful so he begins to have this conversation inside his own head he starts thinking about this and he said within himself what am I going to do he he doesn't know what to do it.

it's like I'm in big trouble here when the master actually finds out that I have in fact squandered his goods he is going to fire me so what should I do for my lord is going to take from me the stewardship I can't dig so maybe he's not particularly athletic maybe a very skinny person and there's no way he could he could survive as a labourer and to beg I am ashamed I've had this lofty position everybody welcomes me they're afraid of me I have power and authority and respect there's no way I'm going to now have to lead a life as a beggar I don't know what I'll do I'm resolved what to do that when I am put out of the stewardship when I am put out of the stewardship they may receive me into their houses and so this is sort of the the big insight that this individual has that Christ is commended he says I know what to do that when I am put out of the stewardship they may receive me into their houses so he called every one of his Lords debtors remember this is a very rich man's days and have lots of debtors and so now is he has to give this account for this for rich man he's actually now acting for himself and so he he then calls every one of his betters unto him and so there they're going to come they owe this rich man money and he said to the first how much do you all unto my Lord and he said a hundred measures of oil so this is a lot of debt this is a great amount of debt that he owes and so he said to him you know what take your bill sit down quickly and write fifty now it's important to note that the fact that the steward has to call all of the debtors to him and ask each one of them what do you owe my master that gives us an indication of just how careless and and

frivolous that this steward was he really wasn't careful about his masters wealth and so he doesn't know what these people all he's just been writing living high on the hog and now he's got to figure out what are these people all so he has that each one of them excuse me he what is it again that you owe my master and so he said take your bill sit down quickly and write fifty then he said then said he to another how much do vou owe and he said a hundred measures of wheat and he said take your bill and write four score so he's going to each one figuring out how much they owe and telling them to discount it just you know what he's removing quite a bit of debt from from them so he said to another how much you owe and he said a hundred measures of wheat and he said take your bill and write eighty now this is the part that confuses people because Christ is now commending this criminal activity the lower so the Lord commended the unjust steward so we'll see where Christ commends him as well but here the the rich man he is like amazed the LORD commanded the unjust steward like this is

shrewd because he had done wisely for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light hmm what does all this mean so the rich man who is obviously a shrewd businessman as we built up a great deal of wealth when he looks at the behavior of this unjust steward it's like you know what this guy is good he actually has to look at the behavior and say wow I got to take my hat off to this guy basically what he did was to say I'm about to get turned out I can't dig I'm not going to beg I have nothing I'm done oh I've got an idea I'm going to go to

all these people who owe my master money and I'm going to cause them instead of being indebted to my master I'm going to get them to become indebted to me I have no idea what they are I'm going to figure out what they are and then I'm going to discount it so that nothing been written down now let's write it down there's no the master has no record to say hey you actually owe me a hundred measures of oil what hey what's written down is fifty so so get rid of the old invoice put put fifty that's what we'll show the master now the rich man commends this it's very very shrewd so now when he fires him this guy can live well for multi be the next ten years he's got nothing to worry about he can go from house to house hey you need to put me up for a year remember that favor I did for you and remember actually you were involved in a bit of criminal activity with me you wouldn't want me to expose that would you and so he's got something over all these people not only do they owe him but he can also expose them so he's in a very very powerful position now and and the rich man looks at this and said this is amazing

so you commend him because he had done what wisely for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light and I say unto you so now price takes this example and the rich man commending the steward the unjust steward

christ takes this example as an opportunity to say to us children to be wise like the children of this world even though we're the children of light we don't have this wisdom and christ to think to us we need to develop this wisdom so isis use this wisdom that this

unjust steward had to develop wisdom yourself so I say to you make to yourselves friends of the Mammon the money of unrighteousness that when you fail they may receive you into everlasting habitations and this explains the behavior of the father in chapter 15 this deceived this expands it so the father is dying when you fail when you die that you use your wealth wisely so that they may receive you into everlasting habitation so this unjust steward was was not unclear about who his true master was his true master with himself and because he was clear about who his true master was he could be decisive in the moment of crisis he could just decide right away what he has to do because he was not a double minded man he was single minded he knew who his master was we need to be the same way that's why Christ says no one can be my disciple unless he's willing to forsake everything and he's going to put me first then we can be a disciple so when we have that kind of clarity as to who our master is we're going to be very decisive and part of that decisiveness he's saying is to use the wealth that we have now which we are stewards of to use that wealth to make friends of the people who are going to live forever remember he's coming to establish the kingdom of God and all those who are poor and lowly are going to be lifted up and

all those who are high and mighty are going to be taken down and so if we understand just the same way to Stuart understand Wow times are changing I'm not going to be

times are changing I'm not going to be in this position anymore I'm failing I'm out of this position it's over there's a new reality coming I need to prepare

myself for that new reality in the same way we have to understand the kingdom of God is certain it is coming it's already in process and we have to take as stewards of whatever wealth we have today and Christ is saying be wise and don't just consume it on yourself consume use it in such a way that when everything is reestablished and the kingdom of God is is established and everything is back to the way it should be and we restored that people are going to remember while you've helped me and so this this younger son in Luke 15 he has repented he is back he's alive again and so the father is now honoring him and so when he dies and now that younger son who's repented is going to be in the kingdom he'll remember him and so this is how we need to use our wealth and you remember in Luke 12 in fact when did the rich man in Luke 12 and he had lots of wealth and he said I'm going to build another a bigger barn and look after myself

God says to him you fool this night your soul shall be required of you then whose shall those things be which you have provided so so that person was immediate he was a fool he couldn't see the new world coming and so he thought all the wealthy was steward over today would last forever and so he made decisions as if he's going to live forever but Christ says you're not going to live forever when you fail when you die and you're resurrected you want to make sure that you've been sowing into the kingdom into the new reality that's coming in that is certain and in Matthew 10 just to elaborate on this we'll go to Matthew in Matthew 10 again picking up the teaching in Luke he that takes not his cross and follows after me

is not worthy of me this is really really profound crisis it over and over again he's serious he didn't come from heaven to earth just for vacation he came to earth to establish the kingdom of God to go up against the devil to tear down the devil's kingdom and to establish the kingdom of God and he doesn't need everybody to help him do that

his Kalki's counted the cost he knows what he what's required he needs a few good men and so he's actually turning people away and saying don't follow me if you're not serious the people who follow me have to be willing to lay down their lives they need to sew into the reality tomorrow not today's temporary illusion but we need to understand today is passing away and we need to be making decisions very clearly God is our master we're not confused and we're sowing into the kingdom he that finds his life shall lose it the same way we saw that guy who had all the wealth he's going to build bigger barns and God said to me fool this night your soul will be required of you so and we can see as the world is changing and I saw on the chat as I just took a quick look there is somebody mentioning what's going on in the Philippines with Isis and how Christians are being hunted down and persecuted and we're seeing this all over the world and those are the Marxists that are in power they love this this is wonderful this is exactly what they want this is all by design but if we behave in ways that were trying to save our life and protect our own skin we're going to miss out we have to make the decision that we are the disciples of Christ and we are sowing into the kingdom and we won't even put our own lives first we're going

to preach this gospel we're going to do what our Lord commands us we're not just going to call him Lord Lord and then not do what he says so he that find his life shall lose it and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it so we take whatever we have and we sow it into the kingdom even our lives heat and then this is it here he that receives you receives me

and he that receives me receives him that sent me he that receives a profit in the name of a profit shall receive a Prophet's reward and he that receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward so he's making it very clear here how we can use our wealth whatever we've been given stewardship over to sow into the kingdom that as Christ sends people out whether they're profits or his apostles or righteous men when he sends men out to do this work that anybody who supports these men Christ is saying they're supporting me and anybody who supports me is supporting my father and whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these my little ones a cup of cold water and I'll just have a cup of water here my wife gave this to me and whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple verily I say unto you he shall in no wise lose his reward

Christ is making it very clear how we ought to think about our lives and about the wealth that we've been given stewardship over we need to be totally totally focused as he was on shirring in the kingdom of God and putting an end to the rule of the devil and so coming back to Luke 16 now where he's explaining this parable that he made up to make a

point about how we have to be very clear what our objectives are and that we can't have anything before Christ and we have to sink like Christ and the Pharisees were doing the exact opposite he that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much your character and my character its our character so whether we have a little or we have a lot we are who we are and how we behave and what we do with our wealth actually demonstrates very clearly who we are and and God can see by how we handle the little that we have who our master really is so this man so he says he that is faithful in a little as he that is faithful in the least is faithful also in much and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also and much so that unjust steward he was unfaithful and the fact that he was unfaithful just means is an unfaithful guy so as he's changes now he starts to live with these other people who have to put him up they're putting up a dishonest man and if they find themselves they're missing things afterwards this is who he is he is who he is his character is his character so we can prove our character to God by being faithful to him in the little that we have so we have the feast of Pentecost coming up very shortly now and we will bring an offering to God and God is looking at that offering not the amount but the heart behind it how much we want to support his gospel economics and he's looking at us and seeing how faithful is this person and are they really sowing into the kingdom if therefore you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon who will commit to you the true riches so here now what are the true riches so he says

if we've not been faithful in in the money the wealth that we have in this world who will commit to us the true riches well the true riches are the whole universe the universe you know we are in a solar system that has eight planets

that solar system is in a galaxy that has a hundred I think it's a hundred billion suns so our Sun with these eight planets going around it orbiting it is part of a hundred billion of a hundred billion suns and that galaxy the Milky Way is one galaxy out of what scientists are estimating now can trillion ten trillion galaxies with a hundred billion stars all of these stars have their own planets these are the true riches and when these riches are given to us when these riches are given to us its permanent we will have eternal life we will reign with Christ for a thousand years

then God the Father is going to come down on earth this is in Revelation 21 and 22 God Himself is going to come down God the Father and he's going to set up his headquarters here on earth and the whole universe is going to be governed from Earth and when the wealth of the universe is given to us it's given to us permanently there's no more death there's no more dying and so whatever wealth we have now it's an illusion it's temporary it's passing away and if we can't be faithful with the wealth that's illusory and passing away but we demonstrate our character with it then who's going to how do we expect the God to give us the true wealth when we've demonstrated to him very clearly what our character is who will commit to your trust the true riches and so here now so I explained this in chapter 15 that

he was angry and he wouldn't go in and that's where he explains then that he devoured you're living with harlots and so he went through that and so the key there is all that I have verse 31 and he said son you're ever with me all that I have is yours so the father knows he's dying he's going to his electrochemical system is going to fail and so everything that he has he's gonna is going to pass it on he's wise he understands he's just a steward and he's going to pass it on but he knows now that he's looking forward to the resurrection and eternal life and he's rejoicing with God over a sinner that's repented and he's using his resources to celebrate and Christ was doing this he was celebrating with the sinners that repent and the Pharisees condemned him for this that he eats with sinners and then this if you have not been faithful in that which is another man's so anything that we have here in this world it's not ours and and the father understood that that what he has is not his but it was faithful with him he was faithful to God he was very clear who his master was who shall give you that which is your own and so there is an ultimate destiny that we all have that God is calling us to and we have to be faithful to God to demonstrate that we can handle it we will be saved will be faithful now and will be faithful then it's not like you know I don't have anything now God but if I had money if I he gave me more money oh then I would really change and I'd really be something know who we are is who we are no servant can serve two masters so there's just no way that the dismisses this is really the point of the parable the servant was very clear about who his

master was his master was himself and so he was never confused about how to make decisions he always made decisions that benefited himself we need to be very clear about who our master is and always make decisions that benefit our master so he says no servant can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other or else you'll hold to the one and despise the other you cannot serve God and money you cannot serve God and Mammon so we need to be very very clear about this our money is good a lot of people are you know can wealth and condemned riches God doesn't condemn wealth he condemns the love of money but it doesn't condemn money we see very clearly money can be used for good and many of God's servants were very wealthy so money is not the issue it's the love of money it's who our master is is money our master or is God our master so we need to so this is again this is just elaborating on what Christ said earlier you cannot be my disciple if you do not put me first you must put me before so the father in having this wealth when the prodigal son comes back he's not worried about what the other son thinks of him he wants to do God's will and he's going to use his wealth to do God's will and to celebrate and to enjoy this repentance with all the neighbors and friends and family so you we can't serve two masters we need to know what God's thoughts are and what his will is and commit ourselves to that form either he will hate the one and love the other or else he will hold to the one and despise the other you cannot serve God and Mammon we cannot serve God and anything else Christ if he has to be first so

this is why he said you have to hate your own brother and sister and mother and father or spouse everybody and it's like there's no comparison compared to our love for God in fact because of our love for God we are better fathers because of our love for God we're better mothers we're better husbands were better wives or better sons or better daughters so everybody benefits when we put God first now in contrast Luke makes it very clear again that the Pharisees are completely different from the way God is and God's people are and the Pharisees also who were covetous so they know who their master is and they make all their decisions for themselves they heard all these things and they derided him they insulted him they just they are constantly trying to discredit him and so when they heard all of this they derided him but if we understand what Christ is saying then we understand them the message is we must be very very clear who our master is and we must sow into the kingdom and we must have that wisdom that the decisions that we make are not really for this life therefore the coming Kingdom and where we're supporting the people who are supporting God's message so that when we fail they'll receive us into everlasting habitations where God will give to us the true wealth and it says it so it he knows that they're discrediting him and he said unto them you are they which justify yourselves before men so you like to justify yourselves before men but God knows your hearts so so what's really going on inside them is not at all what appears on the surface for that which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God so that

is quite something so what we what looks like religious men is actually an abomination to God that God knows what's going on inside their hearts and they behave in ways to justify themselves before men but in the sight of God they are these religious men these religious leaders these men who are instructing others in the Word of God they are an abomination in the sight of God and I think we see today excuse me today many people who are claiming to speak for God and doing horrendous things horrendous acts horrendous acts they told this whole fundamentalist Islamic movement engaged in horrendous acts and claiming to speak for God and God says they're an abomination and we need to see things the way God sees them the law and the

prophets were until John and since that

time

the kingdom of God is preached so again the law is Moses the prophets are represented by Elijah the first Elijah and then John's the second Elijah so the law and the prophets were until John and since that time the kingdom of God is bridged so John was the the final prophet to introduce Jesus Christ and now and now the kingdom of God is preached and every man presses into it so this is again hopefully you did see the opening video where you saw how somebody was pressing into the kingdom or pressing into that victory laughs and here you see these women working so hard it's like a photo finish here to see pressing into that victory so so who was the winner they had to go to a photo finish to see in fact who the winner was and that that's exactly how God wants us to to behave to really see very very clearly the kingdom of God and we're not

confused we're not double minded everything we do every decision we make is sowing into the kingdom of God and and here in Luke I started on in Luke in Timothy Paul writes to Timothy that you must endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ no man that Wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life that he may please him who has chosen him to be a soldier and if any men strive for masteries yet he is not crowned except he strive lawfully so here we saw one of the women there who won that race very tight photo-finish she strove lawfully and all of them were pressing with all their might to gain that victory in the opening video we saw the the runner there although he wanted to win he was all over the place he was knocking down hurdles he was knocking over the hurdles of his neighbors he was just wild and so clearly that even though he

I see plays first that victory wouldn't count and so we cannot be an abomination to God as we strive to be in the kingdom we must very clearly strive for these masteries press with all of our heart all of our soul love God as it says in Deuteronomy with all of our soul and our minds and our heart and do so an instant because we do that we strive lawfully so Christ just finishing up this section here it's easier for heaven on earth to pass than for one tittle of the law to fail and so he is looking at these Pharisees who are presenting themselves one way but actually something else is going on in their heart and I think what I'll do is I'll stop here and we'll continue this because it's now it's is 830 7 or 737 central we'll stop here I'll continue here next week and I know we lost some time there with the

technical difficulty but hopefully that whole first part of Luke and the unjust steward becomes much more clearer when we read it in the context of what Christ said earlier and realized that this is just an opportunity for him to elaborate further and articulate more clearly what he was saying in Luke chapter 15 and to help the disciples to see the Pharisees more clearly and to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees so let's stop there I'll hop on the chat and talk a little bit and looking forward to hearing your comments everybody happy Pentecost as we finish this count the final week and is the 7 week count to Pentecost or happy Pentecost and looking forward God willing to reconvene next week and finish off with Luke chapter 16 and remember Jesus Christ is our Lord and King let's put him first let's honor him let's praise Him this world is just it's unraveling it's out of control as the devil is desperately trying to destroy as many lives as he can he cannot destroy our lives our lives are eternal let's praise God Jesus Christ King goodnight