

**Wednesday in the Word**  
**Wheat Street Baptist Church**

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**Waste Not, Want Not: When the Journey of Faith Turns into a Lifestyle**

**16** Jesus said to his disciples: A rich man once had a manager to take care of his business. But he was told that his manager was wasting money.

What have you or what are wasting now?

What possession has been given (gifted) to you that you have mismanaged?

What possessions have we corporately wasted?

Are we spiritually mature enough to go through the constructive learning process of self-correction and self-criticism for the betterment of the Kingdom of God?

Do you treat your possessions better than you treat God's possessions?

<sup>2</sup>So the rich man called him in and said, "What is this I hear about you? Tell me what you have done! You are no longer going to work for me."

Inspect what you Expect

Does your purpose match your priorities?

If God were to hold you accountable today, would you have to hit the panic button like the manager in the text?

<sup>3</sup>The manager said to himself, "What shall I do now that my master is going to fire me? I can't dig ditches, and I'm ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I know what I'll do, so that people will welcome me into their homes after I've lost my job."

<sup>5</sup>Then one by one he called in the people who were in debt to his master. He asked the first one, "How much do you owe my master?"

<sup>6</sup>"A hundred barrels of olive oil," the man answered.

So the manager said, "Take your bill and sit down and quickly write 'fifty'."

<sup>7</sup>The manager asked someone else who was in debt to his master, "How much do you owe?"

"A thousand bushels of wheat," the man replied.

The manager said, "Take your bill and write 'eight hundred'."

<sup>8</sup>The master praised his dishonest manager for looking out for himself so well. That's how it is! The people of this world look out for themselves better than the people who belong to the light

Why would the master praise a dishonest manager?

9 My disciples, I tell you to use wicked wealth to make friends for yourselves. Then when it is gone, you will be welcomed into an eternal home. 10 Anyone who can be trusted in little matters can also be trusted in important matters. But anyone who is dishonest in little matters will be dishonest in important matters. 11 If you cannot be trusted with this wicked wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? 12 And if you cannot be trusted with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something that will be your own? 13 You cannot be the slave of two masters. You will like one more than the other or be more loyal to one than to the other. You cannot serve God and money.

A double minded man is unstable in all of his ways (James 1:8)

19 There was once a rich man who wore expensive clothes and every day ate the best food. 20 But a poor beggar named Lazarus was brought to the gate of the rich man's house. 21 He was happy just to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. His body was covered with sores, and dogs kept coming up to lick them. 22 The poor man died, and angels took him to the place of honor next to Abraham.

What are the consequences of ignoring those that need to experience the goodness of God the most?

The rich man also died and was buried. 23 He went to hell and was suffering terribly. When he looked up and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side, 24 he said to Abraham, "Have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and touch my tongue. I'm suffering terribly in this fire."

25 Abraham answered, "My friend, remember that while you lived, you had everything good, and Lazarus had everything bad. Now he is happy, and you are in pain. 26 And besides, there is a deep ditch between us, and no one from either side can cross over."

27 But the rich man said, "Abraham, then please send Lazarus to my father's home. 28 Let him warn my five brothers, so they won't come to this horrible place."

29 Abraham answered, "Your brothers can read what Moses and the prophets wrote. They should pay attention to that."

30 Then the rich man said, "No, that's not enough! If only someone from the dead would go to them, they would listen and turn to God."

31 So Abraham said, "If they won't pay attention to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even to someone who comes back from the dead."