**A Sermon Plan for Luke 16**: **1-13** **Serving Two Masters**

*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*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2016&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25627a)*] 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*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2016&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25628b)*] 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.”*

**Notes**

Start with a story of when you or someone tried to do 2 things at once, or be 2 things at once, and it went wrong. Point out that in retrospect, it would have been better to focus on the most important thing.

Joshua invited the people of God to choose which God they would serve (Joshua 24: 15) and in today’s passage, Jesus confirms none of us can serve 2 masters (v13).

So we have to decide: are we following the values of the Kingdom of God when it comes to money, or worldly values which can be summarised as try to keep what you have and get some more.

Very few of us would either openly admit to, or even be aware of following the worldly approach to money. The trouble is it can be sub-conscious. We may even sub-consciously be trying to do both, have a foot in both camps. Refer back to the opening story and Jesus’ words in v13 to demonstrate how silly that can be.

We can take a self-test to discover if we are subconsciously following non-Godly values by looking at where our money goes. Our treasure is where our heart is, and whether we initially admit it or not, what we spend our money on is what, deep down, we believe to be most important. So it’s worth asking ourselves if we are giving grudgingly or cheerfully. God sees Our giving as part of our worship and discipleship.

For those who genuinely don’t have much money, point out that generosity is more a lifestyle or thought pattern, not about the actual amount we can give. Reference the widow and her 2 coins (Mark 12: 41-44)

Finish with an appeal not to serve 2 masters. Suggest that living and giving generously might involve making a point of privately and prayerfully reviewing at least yearly whether we can give more, and if so then doing so with a cheerful heart, as a person of faith.

**End**