***Generosity: How God’s Radical Grace Makes Us Givers***

**Study #6: “Generosity and Wealth, Part 2”**

The Text: Luke 16:1-14

**The Parable of the Shrewd Manager**

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 2So 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— 4I 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%2016:1-14&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%2016:1-14&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. 9I 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. 11So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12And 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.” 14The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.

Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus would use this example to teach his disciples how to make friends?
2. What is surprising about the way in which the manager secured his future (vv.3-7)?
3. What is Jesus teaching his followers about wealth and relationships?

The Text in the Bigger Story:

In 1 Chronicles 29:12-16, King David praises God for his provision of materials to build God’s temple.

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. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.

1. Compare King David and the manager in Luke, particularly their attitudes about wealth. What does King David’s prayer teach us about how we should view wealth?

Jesus Completes the Story:

1. What “true riches” (v. 11) does Jesus give us that worldly wealth cannot?

Living Out the Story:

1. Share with the group some ways you have experienced God’s riches this week? How can we use our wealth (and other resources) to build relationships that welcome others into God’s kingdom?
2. What are some ways we can be more generous with our money? In particular, consider how we can limit some of our spending so we can be more flexible in our giving?

PRAYER

***Praise*** God for his abundant provisions. Praise him for the material and spiritual blessings in our lives, which he gives us so that we might thrive and participate in his work of drawing all people to him.

***Confess*** that we have been irresponsible in how we spend our money. Confess that we hold too tightly to the wealth God has given us, neglecting to use it for the sake of the kingdom.

***Ask*** that God would give us an attitude like David, who considered all things as belonging to God, his master. Ask that the ways we use our money would introduce many to the love of Christ.