

Managing Money to Love (Part 5)

Luke 16:16; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; March 10, 2019

Invest in the kingdom to come.

¹⁶ *“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. - Luke 16:16*

Why should we see this passage as a continuation of the discussion of money?

- Because it is sandwiched between the parable of the unrighteous steward and the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. (Luke 16:1-9; 16:19-31)
- Because it begins with a reference to the Pharisees as scoffing at what has just been said and that they were lovers of money. (Luke 16:14)
- Because 'that which is highly esteemed among men' is probably a reference to wealth and especially putting our hope in wealth/money/possessions in regard to our help and happiness. (Luke 16:15)

The Law and the Prophets

¹⁶ *“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. ¹⁷ But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail. (16-17)*

- The ‘Law and the Prophets’ refers to the whole Old Testament.

⁴⁴ Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. – Luke 24:44-47

John the Baptist

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- John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old Testament who introduced the Messiah to Israel.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY; ³ THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE

WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.”⁴ John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. – Mark 1:2-4

The Gospel

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- The ‘gospel’ is the good news about Jesus Christ and His life and death and resurrection and what that means for sinners.

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. – 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

The Kingdom of God

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- The ‘kingdom of God’ is realm of God’s reign which produces righteousness (obedience to God) and peace (abundant provision in a reconciled God) and joy (happiness in God).

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. – Romans 14:17

Preaching the Gospel

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- To ‘preach’ is to bring a message of glad tidings.

How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings **good news**, Who announces peace And brings **good news** of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!” – Isaiah 52:7

Forcing Your Way into the Kingdom

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- The word ‘forcing’ can mean (1) to earnestly urge forward or (2) to press forward earnestly.
- We are to ‘rest in Jesus’ for pardon and perfection while ‘hoping in God’ for help and happiness so that we ‘pursue love’ with earnestness, seeking to press forward in growth as we seek to trust and obey His Word in every situation and every relationship.
- This ‘pressing forward’ to love and grow includes our use of money.

²² And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem. ²³ And someone said to Him, “Lord, are there *just* a few who are being saved?” And He said to them, ²⁴ “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; ²⁷ and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.’ ²⁸ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out. – Matthew 13:22-28

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. ⁵ Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, ⁶ and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, ⁷ and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹ for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. – 2 Peter 1:1-11