

*Deeper Riches: Luke Bible Study*  
**Week 12 - Luke 14-16**

**Before you begin...**

As Jesus journeys to Jerusalem in Luke 14-16, he finds himself eating in the homes of the Pharisees, where he takes the opportunity to teach some important lessons about people and possessions. This week's reading is almost entirely in the form of parables. A *parable* is a story that can only be understood by those who "have ears to hear." So this week's text comes with some warnings:

Be on your guard as you read this week. Take care not to presume to know the meanings of these parables just because you have heard some of them before. Consider the context, and pay very close attention to any interpretation Jesus himself provides. Also, be careful not to dismiss the plain meaning of Jesus' words. Your flesh will be quick to find a personal application that is less extreme than what Jesus says plainly, but let his plain words sink in. Allow yourself time to wrestle with Jesus' words before explaining the hard things away.

There is much in Luke 14-16 to encourage as well as challenge us this week. Will you open yourself up to be transformed by Jesus' words? Do you trust God has your best interest at heart?

*God, you are my God and all I have is yours, even my very life. Give me ears to hear what you have to say to me this week as I open myself up to your Word. Speak to me, Lord, and show me your ways. Train my heart to love you and to love what you love. I want to honor you with all that I am and all that I have.*

**Day 1 - Luke 14:1-24**

1. **Read Luke 14:1-24.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** that come to mind

If you prefer to take some time to write out more observations, try using the Observation Guides at [DeeperRiches.com/Luke](http://DeeperRiches.com/Luke) or write out your observations and thoughts in a journal.

2. In Luke 14:1-6, the religious leaders challenged Jesus without saying a word.

- a. What were they watching his closely for in (14:1-2) and how did Jesus respond to their challenge (14:3-4)?
- b. How did this test reveal the hypocrisy of the religious leaders (14:5-6)?

3. Read Jesus' parable in Luke 14:7-11. Where in your life are you tempted to consider yourself more important or higher than others? What might it look like for you to take the lowest place?

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## Luke Study Guide: Week 12 - Luke 14-16

4. Jesus' gives his host some advice in Luke 14:12-14.
  - a. Summarize Luke 14:12-14 in your own words.
  
  - b. Who might God want you to invite into home or your celebrations in response to Jesus' words? What do you have to believe in order to obey him in this?
  
5. How does the way the Pharisees viewed people contrast with the way Jesus views people? Give examples from Luke 14:1-14.
  
6. Read the parable of the banquet in Luke 14:15-24. What kinds of things did the invited guests value above the invitation to the banquet (14:18-20)?
  
7. How did the master of the banquet respond to this rejection (14:21-24)? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
  
8. What warning was Jesus giving to the Pharisees with this parable?
  
9. What does this parable teach us about the kingdom of God?
  
10. Where do you see yourself in this parable? What message does God have for you personally?

**Pray** about these things.

### Day 2 - Luke 14:25-34

1. **Read Luke 14:25-34.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
  - **who** is in the passage
  - **what** is happening
  - **when** and **where**
  - **repeated words** or **ideas**
  - **questions** that come to mind

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2. List the three difficult costs we must count if we want to be a disciple of Jesus:

**14:26a**

**14:26b-27**

**14:33**

3. What might Jesus call a disciple to do that would make it look like they *hate* their family? (Look back to Luke 9:59-62.)

4. What might Jesus call a disciple to do that would make it look as if they have no regard for their own life? (See Luke 10:3 and 12:4.)

5. On this side of Jesus' death and resurrection, we see the cross as a symbol of God's love and salvation, but when Jesus spoke the words of Luke 14:27, the disciples would only have known the cross as an instrument of torture, disgrace and death reserved for rebels and criminals.

- a. With that in mind, what was Jesus telling his disciples to expect when he said they must carry (bear) their own cross in order to follow him?
- b. What does it look like to count this cost today? What kind of public humiliation and shaming, even criminal accusations might Christians (even in North America) face for faithfully following Jesus?

6. What point is Jesus making in Luke 14:28-30?

7. In Luke 14:31-32, Jesus told a parable of a king counting the cost of going to war against another king. The first king, seeing he could not win, asked for terms of peace.

- a. Circle the words, "In the same way," "So, or "Therefore..." in verse 33.
- b. If the "terms of peace" are that we "renounce our possessions," what two kingdoms are going to war when we consider following Jesus? (See Luke 16:13.)
- c. What do you think Jesus meant when he said we must "give up everything we have" or "renounce all our possessions" in order to be his disciple? What is so dangerous about possessions? (Consider 14:18-19.)

8. In the 1st Century, salt was an expensive and essential preservative for perishable food. Salt was often not pure, but mixed with other rock, so its "saltiness" could be washed away by rain, and then the salt would be useless. Why do you think Jesus refers to salt in Luke 14:34-35? What does this have to do with being a disciple of Jesus and counting the cost?

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9. In this passage we looked at three obstacles to following Jesus. What is God asking you to yield to him in each of these areas in order to follow him whole-heartedly? What fears do you have?

Family

Fear of death or disgrace

Possessions

**Pray** about these things. Be honest with God about your thoughts and fears. Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield.

### Day 3 - Luke 15:1-32

1. **Read Luke 15:1-32.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** that come to mind

2. Why would the Pharisees and scribes have a problem with Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners (15:1-2)?

3. In response to their grumbling, Jesus told three parables. Compare the first two parables (15:3-17 and 15:8-10). What do the lost sheep and the lost coin have in common? Look carefully and list everything you can think of.

4. When Jesus ends a parable with “In the same way...” he is teeing up the main point of the parable for his listeners. With that in mind, what is the main point of these first two parables? (See 15:7 and 10.)

5. How does this lesson directly correct the wrong thinking of the Pharisees and scribes in 15:2?

6. Jesus goes on to tell a third parable, often referred to as the Parable of the Prodigal Son (15:11-32). What does this parable have in common with the first two? List everything you can find.

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7. What is the posture of the younger son as he returns home? How is he expecting to be treated? (15:17-19)

8. Fill in the table to compare how the father and the older brother react to the return of the prodigal son:

	The Father	The Older Brother
What he feels	15:20	15:28-29
What he does	15:20-23	15:28-30
How he sees the prodigal	15:24	15:30

9. How should the scribes and Pharisees have seen themselves this parable?

10. How do you see yourself in each of the characters of this story: the younger son, the father, and the older brother?

11. How do these parables help you think about what God is like? What does that mean for you personally?

**Pray** a prayer of praise to God in response to what he has shown you.

**Day 4 - Luke 16:1-14**

1. **Read Luke 16:1-14.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** that come to mind

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2. In Luke 16:1-9 Jesus turns to address his disciples with another parable. What situation does the unrighteous manager face in Luke 16:1-3?
  
3. Do you feel more like the master of your possessions or more like a manager taking care of things that belong to someone else? How do you feel about the fact that you will one day be called to give an account of what you did with God’s property?
  
4. In Luke 16:3-8, the manager handled his situation in a *shrewd* manner. He accurately “sized things up” and then acted wisely to make sure things turned out okay for himself in the end. In what way is Jesus suggesting we do the same? (Consider: What is the situation we need to size up for ourselves?)
  
5. In Luke 16:9, Jesus explains the parable by saying, “And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of worldly wealth so that when it fails, they may welcome you into eternal dwellings.”
  - a. When will your worldly wealth **fail** (i.e. no longer be able to do anything for you)?
  
  - b. What does it mean to “make friends” who will welcome you into heaven?
  
  - c. How could you use the money God has given you to make sure people will welcome you in heaven? Brainstorm as many ways as you can think of.
  
6. Fill in the table below based on Luke 16:10-12. Choose which words describe earthly wealth and which describe heavenly treasure, and write them in the appropriate column.

	<b>Earthly Wealth</b>	<b>Heavenly Treasure</b>
<b>verse 10</b> “very little”                      “much”		
<b>verse 11</b> “unrighteous wealth”   “true riches”		
<b>verse 12</b> “belongs to someone else” “is truly your own”		

Compare the above descriptions of earthly wealth and heavenly possessions. How do these descriptions differ from how you typically think of these things?

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7. Luke 16:10-12 tells us that God uses earthly wealth as a test of our faithfulness. What does it mean to be “faithful” with earthly wealth? Give examples.
8. How could you use your earthly wealth to show that you worship God, and not money? (Luke 16:13)
9. Luke tells us that the Pharisees “scoffed at these things because they were lovers of money” (16:14). What parts of Jesus’ teaching about money are *you* tempted to dismiss? What fears come to your mind as you think about these things?

**Pray** about these things. Be honest with God about your thoughts and fears. Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield.

### Day 5 - Luke 16:13-31

1. **Read Luke 16:13-31.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
  - **who** is in the passage
  - **what** is happening
  - **when** and **where**
  - **repeated words** or **ideas**
  - **questions** that come to mind
2. In Luke 16:14, Jesus’ teaching was interrupted by the Pharisees’ scoffing. According to Luke 16:15, what was the Pharisees’ major problem? How did this manifest in their life according to Luke 11:39-42?
3. Jesus warns them that they may justify themselves in public, but God knows their hearts (16:15). God knows YOUR heart as well. How have you used worldly wisdom to “justify” the way you have used God’s money?
4. Read Luke 16:16-18. Jesus’ comment about divorce in verse 18 is a direct contradiction of the extremely lax view of marriage that the Pharisees were promoting. (It was even reported that a famous rabbi of the time taught that a man could divorce his wife if she over-salted his soup!) With this in mind, summarize what Jesus is saying to the Pharisees in verses 16-17.

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5. Use the table below to compare the rich man and the poor man from Luke 16:19-25.

	The Rich Man	Lazarus
<b>Their life on earth:</b> (Luke 16:19-21)		
<b>After death:</b> (Luke 16:22-25)		

How does this comparison remind you of what Jesus said about the rich and poor in Luke 6:20-26?

6. What stands out to you in Luke 16:26?

7. What does the dialogue in verses 27-31 reveal about the power of the love of money?

8. How is this story related to what John the Baptist had to say in Luke 3:8-11?

9. Summarize the warning Jesus is giving to the Pharisees with this story of the rich man and Lazarus.

10. In this chapter Jesus seems to teach that what we do with our money has eternal consequences.

- a. Does this mean we can purchase or earn our salvation from God based on what we do with our money? Explain.
- b. If we are saved by faith alone through grace alone and not through by our good works, why does it matter what we do with our money?

11. How will you react to this passage? What is God saying to you personally?

**Praise** God for giving us his clear instruction about money in his Word. **Admit** where you have loved money or things more than people. **Ask** God to set you free from the love of money and show you how to use it to serve others. **Yield** your bank account and your lifestyle to him and trust him with what belongs to him in the first place.

**Pulling it all together**

1. What is one thing you think Luke really wants us to understand from these chapters? **If you have time, reread all of Luke 14-16 before answering.**
2. What did you learn from these chapters about **the kingdom of God**?
3. What did these chapters have to say about how we should view **people** and how we should view **money**?
4. What is your most important personal take-away from this chapter? (Was there a **key verse**, a **special insight**, an **example** to follow, a new **way to pray**, something that **challenged** or **convicted** you, etc...)

In what area of your life does this seem to matter most, and how?

*One of the best ways to **apply** the Word of God to your own life is to really **pray** about what you have seen in the passage. Try this acronym: **P.R.A.Y.** - **Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield**. Use the prompts below to guide your prayers.*

**PRAISE.** Thank and praise God for who he is and what he has done. Be specific.

**REPENT.** Confess your sin to God and turn from it. Agree with God about the things that need to change. Be specific.

**ASK.** What will you ask God to do based on what he has shown you? Be specific.

**YIELD.** What will you surrender to God? How can you trust and obey him in response to what he has shown you? Be specific.

**Small Group Discussion Guide:**

1. How does the way the Pharisees viewed people contrast with the way Jesus views people? Give examples from Luke 14:1-14.
2. In the parable of the banquet in Luke 14:15-24, what kinds of things did the invited guests value above the invitation to the banquet? What does this parable teach us about the kingdom of God?
3. Jesus told his disciples they had to “count the cost” of following him. What might Jesus call a disciple to do that would make it look like they *hate* their family? What might Jesus call a disciple to do that would make it look as if they have no regard for their own life?
4. What do you think Jesus meant when he said we must “give up everything we have” or “renounce all our possessions” in order to be his disciple? What is so dangerous about possessions?
5. What do the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son all have in common (Luke 15)? What point is Jesus making to the Pharisees with these parables?
6. How do the parables in Luke 15 help you think about what God is like? What does that mean for you personally?
7. In Luke 16:1-8, the unrighteous manager handled his situation in a *shrewd* manner. He accurately “sized things up” and then acted wisely to make sure things turned out okay for himself in the end. In what way is Jesus suggesting we do the same? (Consider: How are we like the manager? What is the situation we need to size up for ourselves?)
8. Luke 16:10-13 tells us that God uses earthly wealth as a test of our faithfulness. What does it mean to be “faithful” with earthly wealth? How could you use your earthly wealth to show that you worship God, and not money? Give examples.
9. What point was Jesus making with the story of the rich man and Lazarus? How is this story related to Luke 3:8-11 and Luke 6:20-26?
10. In chapter 16 Jesus seems to teach that what we do with our money has eternal consequences. Does this mean we can purchase or earn our salvation from God based on what we do with our money? If we are saved by faith alone through grace alone and not through by our good works, why does it matter what we do with our money?

What is your big take-away from this passage or this discussion? Is there anything you need to confess or yield to God in response to this Truth? What will you praise God for? What will you ask God to do?