

## **7. A Heart of Benevolence: Luke 16**

*(January 2007, Roseville, CA)*

### **I. TREASURE BRINGERS**

<sup>11</sup> *“Your gates will be open continually;  
They will not be closed day or night,  
So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations,  
With their kings led in procession.*

*Isa. 60:11 (NASB)*

- A. The treasure-bringers line up to bring their best joyfully to Jesus, then run back as fast as they can to get more.
- B. God is beginning to release a new understanding of benevolence. He is releasing a new ethos (ethos: “the fundamental character or spirit of a culture; the underlying sentiment that informs the beliefs, customs, or practices of a group or society; dominant assumptions of a people or period.”) in giving: exhilarated givers. Best picture: Scrooge 2.
- C. God is bringing a new ethos through these: that of true financial eunuchs, those trusted because of lack of desire, “living within the circle,” only taking what they need, in order to give more to the Lord.

Example: David Walter; “I can command pallets of cash, but I cannot touch.”

- D. God will change the course of nations

Example: Benevolence Empire

- E. Spiritual Robin Hoods. Their greatest joy is plundering the wealth of the world for their Lord. They will love money, but will be completely free from the spirit of mammon.

God is taking us from reluctant, grudging givers to exhilarated givers.

Example: Christee Cole: Business 90% owned by a non-profit foundation; “bank with God!”

- F. God will release untold wealth, the Cyrus anointing

<sup>1</sup> *Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed,  
Whom I have taken by the right hand,  
To subdue nations before him  
And to loose the loins of kings;*

*To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:*  
<sup>2</sup> *“I will go before you and make the rough places smooth;  
I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.*  
<sup>3</sup> *“I will give you the treasures of darkness  
And hidden wealth of secret places,  
Is 45:1-3 (NASB)*

Example: Coriba Oil

## **II. INTRODUCTION TO LUKE 16**

- A. Perhaps one of the least understood parables in the Bible. Many times God hides truths, in order to bring them out in just the right time. This is the definitive parable spoken regarding benevolence. It contains all the keys that unlock exhilarated giving.
- B. This parable contains 8 revelations that unlock a benevolent heart.

## **III. REVELATION #1: GOD IS THE SOURCE**

<sup>1</sup>*Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager was reported to him as squandering his possessions. Luke 16:1 (NASB)*

- A. In the parable, God is described as a rich man. This is the essence of the first revelation that unlocks the heart: God is the Source.
- B. The deception of the self-made man
  - 1. Deception: we created it. God to BF: “You get in the middle of what I am doing then believe you are the author of the good that results.”
  - 2. Example: “Entrepreneur of the Year” visits Zimbabwe orphans. We believe we succeed through our own efforts, hard work, brains, etc. Truth: God gave you mentors; an education; models & examples; creative ideas.
  - 3. Hos 2:8

<sup>8</sup>*“For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine and the oil,  
And lavished on her silver and gold, Which they used for Baal. Hos 2:8 (NASB)*
- C. God is the source of wealth. He gives it to whomever he pleases, and takes it away whenever He pleases.

<sup>12</sup> *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.*

*1 Chron 29:12 (NIV)*

<sup>28</sup> *“All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. <sup>29</sup>“Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. <sup>30</sup>“The king reflected and said, ‘Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?’”*

<sup>31</sup> *“While the word was in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, <sup>32</sup>and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.’”*

<sup>33</sup> *“Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.*

<sup>34</sup> *“But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever;*

*For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.*

<sup>35</sup> *All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,  
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven  
And among the inhabitants of earth;  
And no one can ward off His hand  
Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”*

<sup>36</sup> *“At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.*

<sup>37</sup> *“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.” Dan 4:28-37 (NASB)*

- D. When God is our source, benevolence is unlocked. Example: David at Ziklag (1 Sam 30). David takes 600 men and chases the Amalekite raiders of Ziklag. 200 soon are too exhausted to continue. 400 pursue and defeat the Amalekites. The 400 do not want to share the plunder:

<sup>21</sup> *Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. As David and his men approached, he greeted them. <sup>22</sup> But all the evil men and troublemakers among David’s followers said, “Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go.”*

Their view was the ones who fought and risked deserved the plunder. David's view, however, is that God gave the victory, therefore all should share:

*<sup>23</sup>David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us. <sup>24</sup>Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike." <sup>25</sup>David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this.*

*<sup>26</sup>When David arrived in Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends, saying, "Here is a present for you from the plunder of the LORD's enemies."*

*<sup>27</sup>He sent it to those who were in Bethel, Ramoth Negev and Jattir; <sup>28</sup>to those in Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa <sup>29</sup>and Racal; to those in the towns of the Jerahmeelites and the Kenites; <sup>30</sup>to those in Hormah, Bor Ashan, Athach <sup>31</sup>and Hebron; and to those in all the other places where David and his men had roamed. 1 Sam 30:1-31 (NIV)*

- E. Who is the source of your success? As Bob H shared with me, "Working all night cleaning is hard work. You really think about giving." But it is God who gave us health, strength, opportunity, ability, favor.
- F. God is the one responsible for your success. God has been your source
  - 1. God has been unbelievably generous toward us
  - 2. Everything you have you have received ("What do you have that you have not received?" 1 Cor 4:1)
  - 3. Every good gift comes from above James 1:17
- G. God will be your source. Unlimited wealth: Wow! The Richness of God
  - 1. God has unlimited resources
    - a. All wealth belongs to God
      - <sup>10</sup> "For every beast of the forest is Mine,  
The cattle on a thousand hills.  
Psa. 50:10 (NASB)
      - <sup>10</sup> "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains.  
Psa. 24:1 (NASB)
    - b. Nine times in scripture it says "nothing is impossible with God."

- c. Seven times in scripture it says that we can have whatever we ask for.
- d. All authority in heaven and earth has been granted to him (Eph 1:20, Matt 28:18)

2. He extends His resources and authority to us:

*<sup>18</sup>“But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is **He who is giving you power to make wealth**, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Deut 8:18 (NASB)*

Aside: v. 17: the wilderness was to humble us and test us, “Otherwise, [we] may say in [our] heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’”

*<sup>8</sup>God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; 2 Cor 9:8 (NASB)*

*<sup>20</sup>Now to Him Who, by the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]— Eph 3:20 (Amp)*

H. If God is our source, we can trust

1. God will give us what we need Luke 12

*<sup>22</sup>And He said to His disciples, “For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!*

*<sup>25</sup>And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life’s span? <sup>26</sup>If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith!*

*<sup>29</sup>And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup>For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things.*

*<sup>31</sup>But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. <sup>32</sup>Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.*

<sup>33</sup>*Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.* <sup>34</sup>*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*  
*Lk 12:13-34 (NASB)*

2. Christee Cole: “Bank with God”

#### **IV. REVELATION #2: WE ARE STEWARDS**

<sup>1</sup>*Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager was reported to him as squandering his possessions.” Luke 16:1 (NASB)*

- A. In the parable, the rich man is God, we are the stewards. All wealth belongs to God (everything in your bank accounts)

<sup>10</sup> *“The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains.”*  
*Psa. 24:1 (NASB)*

- B. The steward acted like the owner. “Squandered” is the same word used in the parable of the prodigal son who “squandered” his inheritance in a foreign land. He presumed the wealth was for him. The picture: a man who had so much authority and so little accountability, he began to act like it was his.
- C. BF: Giving to the level means giving out of my little savings. “Is God on the throne? Is what he says true?”
- D. David Walter: Every month prays and asks God what He wants to do with His money.

#### **V. REVELATION #3: WHO AM I?**

<sup>1</sup>*Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager was reported to him as squandering his possessions.” Luke 16:1 (NASB)*

- A. We are unworthy stewards. We have been unreasonably entrusted.
    1. We get no credit from God for our success. When we stand before him proud of our achievements, God says, “I gave you everything...”
    2. We deserve nothing we have received.
    3. We have squandered the Master’s resources.
  - B. God has been an exhilarated giver in giving to us
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- C. The “Who am I?” revelation produces a benevolent heart. David taking the offering for the temple: (3000 talents = 3,000,000oz = \$3B)

<sup>10</sup> *David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, ...*

<sup>12</sup> *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.*

<sup>13</sup> *Now, our God, we give you thanks,*  
*and praise your glorious name.*

<sup>14</sup>*“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.”* <sup>15</sup>*We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.* <sup>16</sup>*O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.* <sup>17</sup>*I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.* <sup>18</sup>*O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. I Chronicles 29:10-18 (NIV)*

## **VI. REVELATION #4: WE HAVE A BRIEF WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY**

<sup>2</sup>*“And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’*

<sup>3</sup>*“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg.*

<sup>4</sup>*I know what I shall do, so that when I am removed from the management people will welcome me into their homes.’*

<sup>5</sup>*“And he summoned each one of his master’s debtors, and he began saying to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’* <sup>6</sup>*“And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’* <sup>7</sup>*“Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ Lk 16:2-7 (NASB)*

- A. The steward gives away the master’s wealth and gets personal credit for it.
- B. We have a minute on the earth, and eternity waiting for us. This life is the blink of an eye and it is almost over.
- C. We have a limited-time offer: to change temporal, earthly wealth that doesn’t belong to us and that we cannot keep into something that is yours and you can keep forever and ever.

The picture: You are the manager of a bank. You find out that tomorrow, all paper money, including the millions in your vault, will be declared worthless. You find a buyer who will take all the paper money in your bank and give you gold bars. You talk to the owner of the bank, and he says you can keep the gold bars. You are very happy!

<sup>8</sup>“*And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.*”

- D. Wily, shrewd: If you can take a sucker, take him. God is offering Himself to us as the sucker and saying, “take me for everything I’m worth.”
- E. All your wealth is going to be given away to others. You might as well do it and get credit for it.
- F. Inheritance for children: “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children” (Proverbs 13:22). Wisdom is the #1 inheritance. It is foolish to create entitlements.

*Due to the success of its casino operations, the Seminoles have grown exceedingly wealthy, spending \$965 million last year to purchase the Hard Rock International chain. Each of the tribe’s more than 3,300 members now gets free health care and college tuition – and everyone from infants to seniors receives monthly dividend checks that total more than \$120,000 a year.*

*At first blush, it sounds like an incredible stroke of good fortune. But according to the South Florida Sun Sentinel, Seminole officials are concerned about “the alarming high school dropout rate, drug and alcohol abuse, free-spending ways that can lead to unmanageable personal debt, and an erosion of the work ethic.”*

*Former Tribal Chairman Howard Tommie says most families now have five or six cars, alongside airboats, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and vacation homes. Yet the tribe is also dealing with an upsurge of young people killed in accidents and by drug overdoses. Many remain unemployed.*

*“The challenge for me and 90 percent of the tribe is motivation,” says Louise Gopher, the Seminoles’ education director. “Young people say, ‘with so much money, why do I have to go to work, go to school.’ It’s like we’ve developed this monster. Now we have to deal with it.”*

- G. Rick Joyner: He wants to make billions of dollars, but die penniless.
- H. Time is running out
  - 1. Num 19:10: “teach us to number our days, that we might present to you a heart of wisdom.” Numbering days = a key to wisdom.
  - 2. Luke 12:20: “You fool...this very night your life is demanded of you...then who will get what you have stored up?”

- I. We want to always be stretching to give away what we make.
  - 1. We never know how much longer we have
  - 2. We never know if we may lose it. Business downturn, market change, legal change, lawsuit
    - a. The lesson of IPIC: give it away.

**VII. REVELATION #5: EXTRAVAGANCE – GOD GIVES ACCORDING TO OUR STANDARD**

<sup>5</sup>“And he summoned each one of his master’s debtors, and he began saying to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>“And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>“Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ Lk 16:5-7 (NASB)

- A. How would you like God to give to you? Sceptically? Begrudgingly? After a year of due-diligence? Never quite enough? Last-minute? Or how about the generous, always ready, “double what you need!?” or the “way too early” the celebratory? You determine how God gives to you:

<sup>38</sup>*Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return. Luke 6:38 (NASB)*

**VIII. REVELATION #6: GIVING GOD PLEASURE**

<sup>8</sup>“And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.

- A. By taking this sucker to the cleaners, we have the power to give Him great pleasure
- B. Honor God with the firstfruits of your wealth...you have the power to honor the king.

Prov 14:31 but whoever is kind to the needy honors God

Prov 3:9 Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce;

2 Cor 9:7 God loves a cheerful giver

<sup>1</sup> *BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, to be envied) is he who considers the weak and the poor; the Lord will deliver him in the time of evil and trouble.*

<sup>2</sup> *The Lord will protect him and keep him alive; he shall be called blessed in the land; and You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies.*

<sup>3</sup> *The Lord will sustain, refresh, and strengthen him on his bed of languishing; all his bed You [O Lord] will turn, change, and transform in his illness.*

*Ps 41:1-3 (Amp)*

Prov 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and that which he has given He will repay to him.

**IX. REVELATION #7: FRIENDS – THE GOOD WE CAN DO**

<sup>9</sup>*“And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings. Lk 16:9 (NASB)*

A. The Schindler revelation; The Chang-Rai girl’s home: \$30 per girl. Your vacation home could buy 10,000 girls. Which will you choose?

B. Becoming a friend of God, who carries God’s heart

1. How many cries of legitimate need did God hear today? We can share His burden as a friend.

2. David Walter: chokes whenever he talks about orphans

C. Making thousands of friends. Every orphan you helped comes up to you and thanks you. And everyone touched by their life and on and on. And every time someone thanks you, you hear Jesus whisper in your ear, “thank you, you carried my heart!”

**X. REVELATION #8: TRUE RICHES**

<sup>10</sup>*“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.*

<sup>11</sup>*“Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?”*

<sup>12</sup>*“And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? Lk 16:10-12 (NASB)*

A. Money is a “very little thing.”

B. This life is an internship for the age to come.

- C. Money is a test. What you do with it determines your reward and position in eternity.
- D. Parable of the minas

<sup>12</sup>So He said, “A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. <sup>13</sup>“And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, ‘Do business with this until I come back.’ <sup>14</sup>“But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ <sup>15</sup>“When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. <sup>16</sup>“The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ <sup>17</sup>“And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’ <sup>18</sup>“The second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’ <sup>19</sup>“And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ <sup>20</sup>“Another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; <sup>21</sup>for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.’ <sup>22</sup>“He said\* to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow?’ <sup>23</sup>“Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’ <sup>24</sup>“Then he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ <sup>25</sup>“And they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas already.’ <sup>26</sup>“I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. <sup>27</sup>“But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.” Luke 19:12-27 (NASB)

Those who were faithful with money were rewarded with authority, position and honor.

- E. True riches: we don’t know much; but they will be far more exciting to us than money; they will be ours to keep; they will last forever.

<sup>13</sup>“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” <sup>14</sup>Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him.

<sup>15</sup>And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. Lk 16:13-15 (NASB)

## **XI. PATRIARCHAL**

- A. Release the Cyrus anointing
- B. Release happy benevolence – “Get happy in your giving”

