

Mike Lewis

Read Luke 16: 1 – 31 in 2 or 3 different translations.

Discussion will be based on the NRSVA.

Note the following word translations which might help understanding of this passage.

1. Shrewdly: Gk *phronimo*. The faculty of thoughtful planning/thinking. Ability to understand, insight, intelligence. Insight and wisdom. Sensible. Thoughtful. Wise. Prudent. Shrewd. (Note that the word has no implications of either goodness or badness.)
See Eph 1:8; Matt 13:33; Luke 12:42; 1 Cor 10:15; 2 Cor 11:19
2. Mammon: Originally a Chaldean term, later Aramaic. Treasure. Riches (personified and opposed to God). Avarice.
3. Lazarus (= Eleazer): “one who God helps”. 3rd most common name at the time.
4. Hades (Greek) = Sheol (Hebrew) = Gehenna (OT). See Josh 15:8; 18:16; Jer 7:30-34; Matt 5:22; 23:33

Questions for discussion:

The dishonest manager

Note the various meanings provided for the word translated here as *shrewdly* in 16:8.

1. From the limited information given in the text, how would you assess the character of the *rich* man?
2. Was the rich man right to praise his manager? Why?
3. Whatever did Jesus mean by his statement as recorded in 16:9?
4. What does *this* parable teach *US* about integrity and faithfulness?

The rich man and Lazarus

1. From the limited information given in the text, how would you assess the character of *this* rich man?
2. Having read the “Gehenna” texts (see above), and with our knowledge of Greek ideas of Hades, the teachings of the medieval Roman Catholic church etc, what would you tell people should anyone ask you about the ever-burning fires of hell?
3. Given the position SDAs take regarding the “state of the dead”, was Jesus right to tell this story in the way he did? Why?
4. Given that Jesus told this story, does that mean that he endorses it?

Luke 16 generally

5. What connections (if any) can you see between the three sections of Luke 16 (1-9; 19-31 and 14-18)?