

Becoming Like Christ

Lesson 8: Faithfulness: Trustworthy Before God -- Luke 16:10-12

Imagine you hand your house key to a friend while you are away for the week. You are not really wondering whether they will throw a wild party or sell your furniture. You are watching something smaller and quieter. Will they water the plants you asked about? Will they lock the door when they leave? Will the dishes be done, the mail brought in, the thermostat set the way you said? You learn almost everything you need to know about a person not by handing them something large, but by handing them something small and watching what they do with it.

Jesus knew this about the human heart. In the middle of a chapter all about money and stewardship, He says one of the most penetrating things ever spoken about character. One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much (Luke 16:10). He is not talking about talent or success or how much we manage. He is talking about the kind of person we are becoming in the places no one applauds, the small unwatched corners of an ordinary life. Faithfulness, Jesus says, is not measured by the size of what we hold but by the steadiness of our hands.

Then He raises the stakes. If you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own (Luke 16:11-12)? Suddenly the dishes and the door key become a parable of something eternal. The money in your wallet, the job you clock into, the home you keep, the body you live in, none of it is finally yours. It belongs to God, and He has loaned it to you to see what you will do. How you handle the little and the borrowed is how you are being prepared for the great and the lasting.

This lesson is about a quiet word that does not get much attention: faithfulness, trustworthiness, dependability before God. We tend to admire the dramatic virtues, the bold and the brilliant. But God is forming in His people something humbler and harder, a character you can count on, a person whose word holds and whose work is honest whether anyone is checking or not. So read these three short verses slowly. They will press a question into your conscience that you cannot easily escape. Can God trust you with a little? Because that, Jesus says, is the proving ground for everything else.

Group Discussion: We tend to think our character is revealed in the big moments, the major decisions and public tests. But Jesus says the person who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and the same with dishonesty. Why do you think Jesus locates the real test of character in the small and hidden things rather than the large and visible ones? What does that say about how God is actually shaping us?

Personal Reflection: Think about the small, unwatched areas of your life this week: how you handle money no one audits, the work you do when no one is checking, the promises

you make in passing. Where would you say you are genuinely faithful in a very little, and where do you suspect you are quietly cutting corners? What is one small place where you sense God asking you to be trustworthy?

Read Luke 16:10–12

Study Questions

1. Jesus says, one who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much (Luke 16:10). What does this teach us about how God measures character, and why does He treat the small things and the large things as connected rather than separate? How does this challenge the way we usually rank what matters?
2. Jesus draws a straight line from the little to the much. Where in your own life have you told yourself that a small compromise does not really count, that it is too minor to matter? As you sit with verse 10, what small area of unfaithfulness might actually be revealing something about your heart that you have not wanted to face?
3. Jesus calls money the unrighteous wealth (Luke 16:11), and the whole chapter treats how we handle money as a spiritual matter, not merely a financial one (Luke 16:13). Why does Jesus connect faithfulness with God so directly to the way we handle money and possessions? What does our use of money reveal about who or what we are really serving?
4. Be honest about your relationship with money and possessions. Does the way you earn, spend, save, and give suggest that you see yourself as an owner or as a steward managing what belongs to God? What is one specific way your handling of money this month either reflected faithfulness to God or competed with it?

5. Jesus says we are handling that which is another's (Luke 16:12), pointing to the truth that what we manage in this life is not ultimately ours but God's, entrusted to us for a time (Psalm 24:1; 1 Corinthians 4:7). How does seeing ourselves as stewards rather than owners change the way we hold our money, our time, our abilities, and even our bodies? Why is faithful stewardship, and not ownership, the right posture before God?
6. Stewardship reaches far beyond money. Consider the things God has entrusted to you that are easy to treat as merely your own: your time, your job, your home, your influence, your family, your physical body. Choose one of these and ask honestly, am I managing this as something on loan from God, or as something I own outright? What would faithful stewardship of that one thing look like this week?
7. Jesus ties present faithfulness to future trust: if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches (Luke 16:11)? What are the true riches Jesus contrasts with worldly wealth, and what does this teach us about how God prepares and tests His people over time, rather than handing everything to us at once?
8. Faithfulness is not a one-time act but a settled pattern, a dependability that holds up over the long haul. Where have you started something for God with enthusiasm but struggled to stay faithful when it became routine, costly, or unnoticed? What is one commitment, to a person, a task, or the Lord's church, where God is calling you not to a burst of zeal but to quiet, persevering faithfulness?
9. Some teach that once a person is saved, their salvation is permanently secured no matter how they live afterward, so that ongoing faithfulness is not truly necessary for being saved in the end. Yet this whole passage hangs salvation's true riches on present faithfulness, and Scripture repeatedly warns Christians who fall away (Hebrews 3:12–

14; 10:26–31; 2 Peter 2:20–22) while calling us to be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10). How do we hold together the assurance God gives His people with the Bible's clear insistence that we must remain faithful, without drifting into either fearful insecurity or careless presumption?

10. Look back across Luke 16:10–12 as a whole: faithfulness in the very little and the much, the right handling of unrighteous wealth, the stewardship of what belongs to another, the true riches God longs to entrust. Name one specific area of small, ordinary, or unwatched faithfulness where you sense Jesus forming trustworthy character in you. What is one concrete step you will take this week to be faithful before God in that little thing?

Now or Later

Reflect on these passages: Psalm 24:1, the earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the ground of all stewardship; Matthew 25:21, well done good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a little so I will set you over much; 1 Corinthians 4:1–2, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful; Colossians 3:23–24, work heartily as for the Lord and not for men; Revelation 2:10, be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life.