

# Luke's Parables: Food for Thought

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Read Luke 16:1-15.

This one gave me pause. The master commends this guy for spending MORE of his money, after calling him out on wastefulness? But the reason the manager was being fired wasn't because he spent his master's wealth. It was because he used it for his own purposes, to fuel his own feelings of power and control. His motives were entirely selfish and didn't leave room for serving the master or his household.

When his actions changed (albeit from motives that were still self-centered), the wealth he'd been given to spend began to serve other people too. He was making friends not only for himself, but for his master.

Our Master has given us wealth across many channels. But it was never meant to be self-serving. It was not given to be hoarded, or spent in pursuit of personal fulfillment, or buried. And money is just one item on a long list of wealth we've been gifted. What about your talents and passions? Your home and the table you gather around? Do you have time to give away? Wisdom? Joy that fills your cup and runs over onto those you encounter?

Your story is on the list, too. Everywhere you've been with God—which is everywhere you've ever been, and if you're not sure of that, I urge you to ask Him to reveal Himself in the places you've felt alone—is a part of the epic He is writing with you and for you. And if He's given it to you, it's because He wants you to give it away. Emptying the coffers will somehow fill them back up, over and over; the Jesus paradox strikes again. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap" (Luke 6:38a). Spend His wealth on vulnerability, forgiveness, hospitality, developing your skills. Spend it on love. Glorify the Giver by sharing His Gift.