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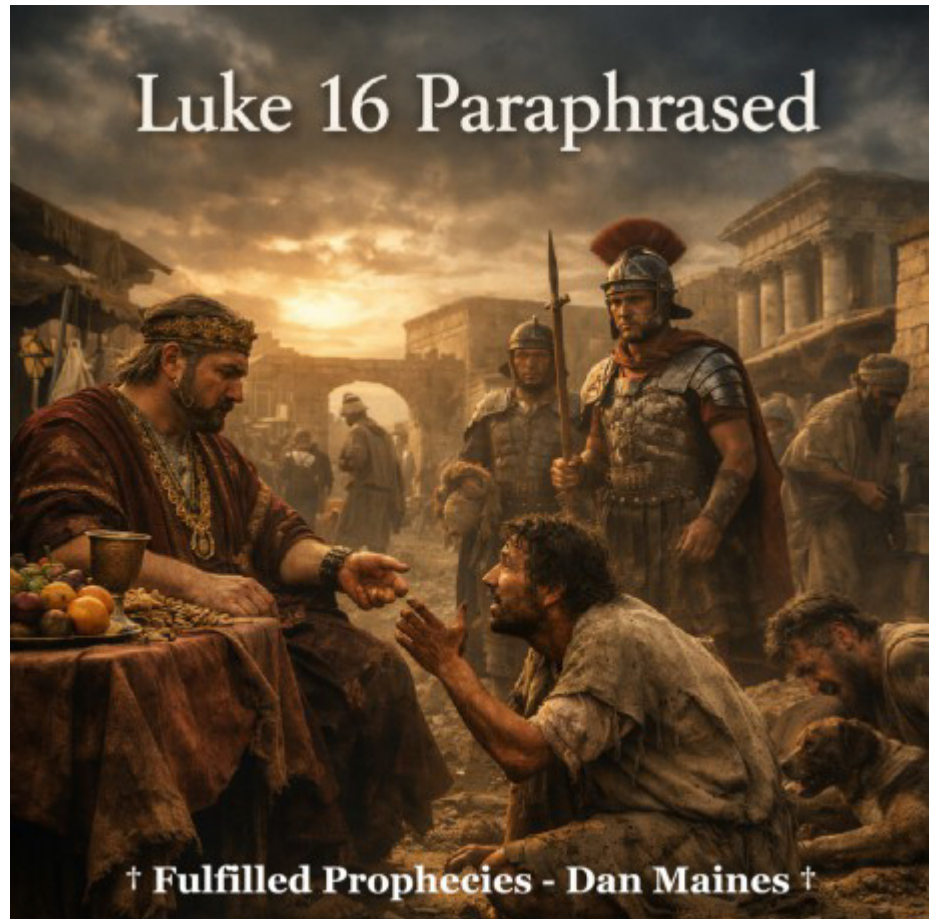
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Luke 16 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Luke 16 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jesus is exposing the unfaithfulness of Israel's leaders, showing that their stewardship is coming to an end in that generation.

† This chapter reveals how they misused what God gave them, choosing wealth and status over truth.

† It also shows the coming reversal, where those rejected would be received and those exalted would be brought low.

Luke 16:1

He said to His disciples that a rich man had a manager who was accused of wasting his possessions

† The rich man represents God, the manager represents Israel's leaders entrusted with responsibility (Ezekiel 34:2)

† They were mismanaging what was given, placing burdens on the people instead of leading them (Matthew 23:4)

† Josephus records the corruption of leaders during this time, showing greed and misuse of authority

Luke 16:2

So he called him and said what is this I hear about you give an account of your management because you can no longer be manager

† This is a direct picture of judgment being announced (Matthew 24:34)

† Their position was being removed as the old system was coming to an end

† Eusebius later records the destruction of Jerusalem as fulfillment of these warnings

Luke 16:3

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

† The leaders were unprepared for judgment and unwilling to humble themselves

† Their confidence was in position, not repentance (John 5:44)

† Pride kept them from turning back to God

Luke 16:4

I know what I will do so that when I am removed people will welcome me into their homes

† He seeks favor from men instead of truth (John 12:43)

† This reflects the mindset of the leaders who valued approval

over righteousness

† Their efforts would not save them from judgment

Luke 16:5

He called each one of his master's debtors and said to the first how much do you owe my master

† This shows continued authority even in corruption

† The leaders controlled access and misrepresented God's requirements

† Their influence was used for personal gain

Luke 16:6

He said a hundred measures of oil he said take your bill sit down quickly and write fifty

† This shows dishonesty and compromise of truth

† Leaders altered what was right for advantage (Malachi 1:8)

† Corruption had become normal

Luke 16:7

Then he said to another how much do you owe he said a hundred measures of wheat he said take your bill and write eighty

† This continues the pattern of manipulation

† Justice and truth were being distorted

† Clement of Alexandria wrote about leaders twisting truth for gain

Luke 16:8

The master praised the dishonest manager because he acted shrewdly for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light

† This is not praise of sin but recognition of awareness and urgency

† They acted wisely for temporary gain but ignored eternal truth

† Believers are called to be wise without compromising truth

Luke 16:9

I say to you make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth so that when it fails they will receive you into eternal dwellings

† Use temporary things for eternal purpose

† Stewardship matters more than possessions

† The kingdom was opening beyond Israel

Luke 16:10

He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much and he who is unrighteous in very little is unrighteous also in much

† Faithfulness reveals the heart

† The leaders failed in small things and greater things

† God judges based on truth of character

Luke 16:11

If you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth who will entrust the true riches to you

† They were not faithful with what was given

† Therefore they were not entrusted with the kingdom (Matthew 21:43)

† True riches were given to those who believed

Luke 16:12

If you have not been faithful in what is another's who will give you what is your own

† Israel held what belonged to God but did not steward it correctly

† What they thought was theirs was taken away

Luke 16:13

No servant can serve two masters for either he will hate one and love the other or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other you cannot serve God and wealth

† The leaders served money instead of God

† Their actions exposed their loyalty (Luke 11:39)

Luke 16:14

Now the Pharisees who were lovers of money were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him

† Their reaction reveals their hearts

† They rejected truth because it exposed them

† Josephus describes their greed clearly

Luke 16:15

He said to them you are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men but God knows your hearts for what is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God

† Outward appearance does not deceive God

† Their system looked righteous but was corrupt

Luke 16:16

The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached and everyone is forcing his way into it

† This shows the transition taking place

† The kingdom was breaking in during that generation

Luke 16:17

But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail

† The Law would be fulfilled completely

† Its passing comes through fulfillment, not failure

Luke 16:18

Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery and he who marries one who is divorced commits adultery

† This reflects covenant unfaithfulness

† Israel had broken covenant with God (Jeremiah 3:8)

Luke 16:19

Now there was a rich man and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen joyfully living in splendor every day

† Represents wealthy Israel and its leadership

† They lived in luxury while neglecting others

Luke 16:20

And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate covered with sores

† Represents the poor and faithful remnant

† Those rejected by the system

Luke 16:21

And longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table besides even the dogs were coming and licking his sores

† Shows the suffering of the oppressed

† The outcasts were ignored and despised

Luke 16:22

Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom and the rich man also died and was buried

† The reversal begins

† The faithful are received while the proud face judgment

Luke 16:23

In Hades he lifted up his eyes being in torment and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom

† This represents separation and judgment

† The leaders now face consequences

Luke 16:24

And he cried out and said Father Abraham have mercy on me and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue for I am in agony in this flame

† The one who ignored now seeks help

† Judgment reverses positions

Luke 16:25

But Abraham said child remember that during your life you received your good things and likewise Lazarus bad things but now he is being comforted here and you are in agony

† Justice is fulfilled

† Earthly advantage did not equal righteousness

Luke 16:26

And besides all this between us and you there is a great chasm fixed so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able and that none may cross over from there to us

† Separation is final

† There is no crossing after judgment

Luke 16:27

And he said then I beg you father that you send him to my father's house

† He now wants others warned

† Recognition of coming judgment

Luke 16:28

For I have five brothers in order that he may warn them so that they will not also come to this place of torment

† This reflects warning to that generation

† Judgment was near

Luke 16:29

But Abraham said they have Moses and the Prophets let them hear them

† They already had the truth

† The issue was rejection not lack of knowledge

Luke 16:30

But he said no father Abraham but if someone goes to them from the dead they will repent

† Even miracles would not change hardened hearts

Luke 16:31

But he said to him if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead

† This points directly to Christ's resurrection

† They still rejected Him even after He rose

Historical References

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, describes the corruption and fall of Jerusalem's leadership

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, records the destruction of Jerusalem as fulfillment of Christ's words

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata, speaks of leaders distorting truth for gain

How it applies to us today

† We must be faithful with what God gives us

† Wealth must never take the place of God

† We must respond to truth now and not delay

† God sees the heart and judges rightly

† We cannot ignore the warning given through scripture

Q & A Appendix

Q: What does the rich man represent

A: He represents the wealthy leadership of Israel who rejected truth (Luke 16:19; Matthew 23:25)

Q: What does Lazarus represent

A: He represents the poor and faithful who were received by God (Luke 16:20-22)

Q: What is Abraham's bosom

A: It represents covenant comfort and acceptance among the faithful (Luke 16:22)

Q: Why is there a fixed separation

A: Because judgment had been finalized and could not be

reversed (Luke 16:26)

Q: What is the main warning

A: That rejecting God's word leads to judgment even if one sees miracles (Luke 16:31)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Luke 16

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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