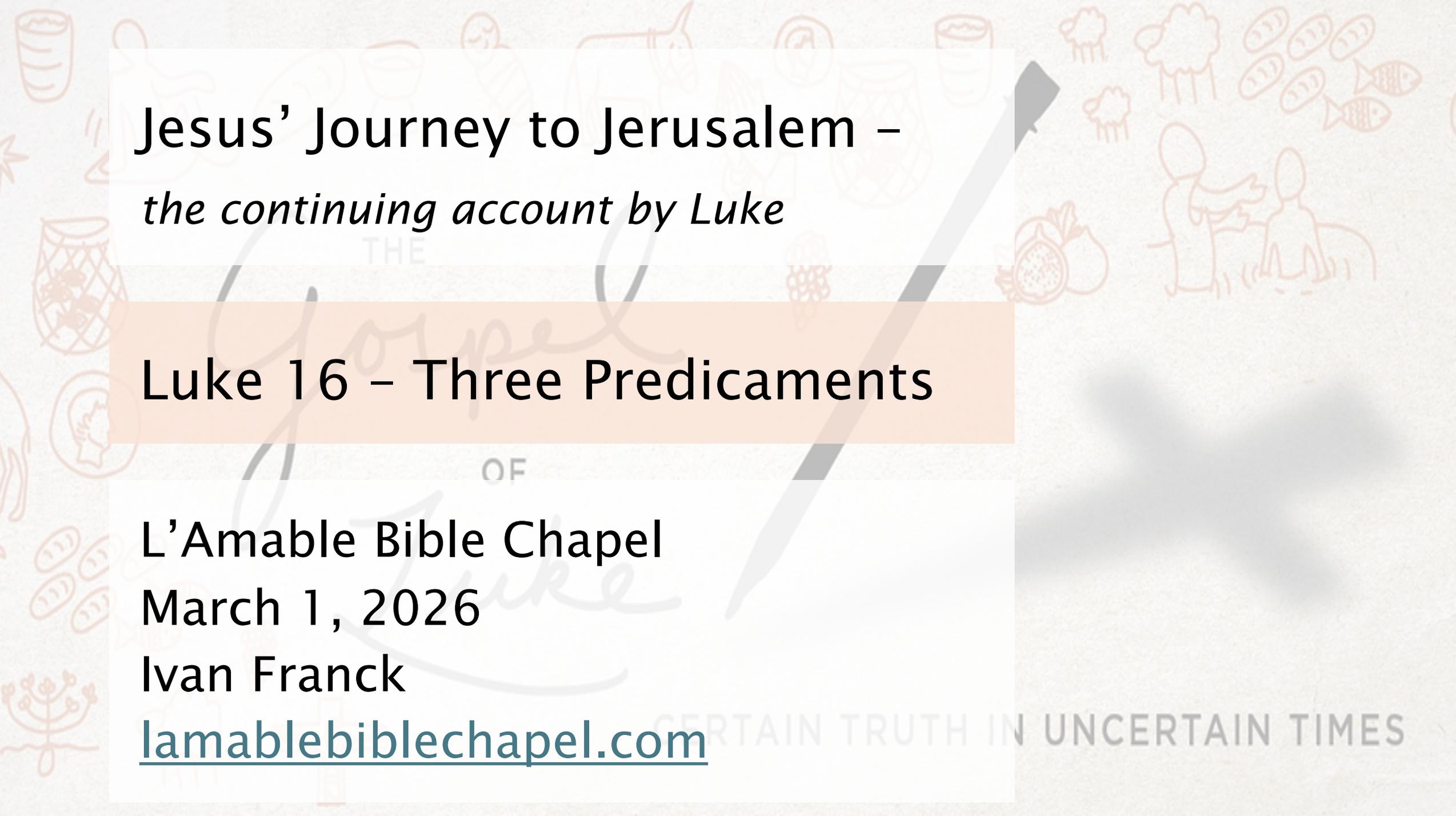


THE  
*Gospel*  
OF  
*Luke*

CERTAIN TRUTH IN UNCERTAIN TIMES



**Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem –**  
*the continuing account by Luke*

**Luke 16 – Three Predicaments**

**L'Amable Bible Chapel**

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**[lamablebiblechapel.com](http://lamablebiblechapel.com)**

CERTAIN TRUTH IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

# *Repeating themes...*

**Kingdoms**

**Values**

**Harmony**

**Jerusalem**

**End Times**



# Luke also emphasizes...

- A shrewd manager
- A rich man & Lazarus
- The rich young ruler
- Zacchaeus the tax collector
- The parable of 10 coins
- Overturning the temple tables
- Paying taxes to Caesar
- The widow's offering
- Judas' betrayal for 30 silver coins

## Values...

...especially  
about worldly  
wealth and the  
poor

Is there a way to sum up Jesus' emphasis?





Jesus is pointing...

...ahead in time

...upward in perspective

...inward in transformation

...*eternal*

...*external*

...*internal*

*...eternal*

*...external*

*...internal*

## Three Predicaments...

- How do we relate to eternity?
- Whose world do we live in?
- What is changing in our hearts?



*Today...* One of the most confusing parables

It follows the parable  
of the Prodigal Son,  
who wasted his  
Father's wealth  
*...let's look now at  
Luke 16...*



## Luke 16:1-15

16 <sup>1</sup>Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup>So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

<sup>3</sup>“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— <sup>4</sup>I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

<sup>5</sup>“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

<sup>6</sup> “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

<sup>7</sup> “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

<sup>8</sup> “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. <sup>9</sup> I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

# We will return to Luke 16

## First...this Shrewd Manager

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- Surprises!
- No repentance
- Fatalistic self-preservation
- Makes friends with his Master's possessions!
- The Master commends him



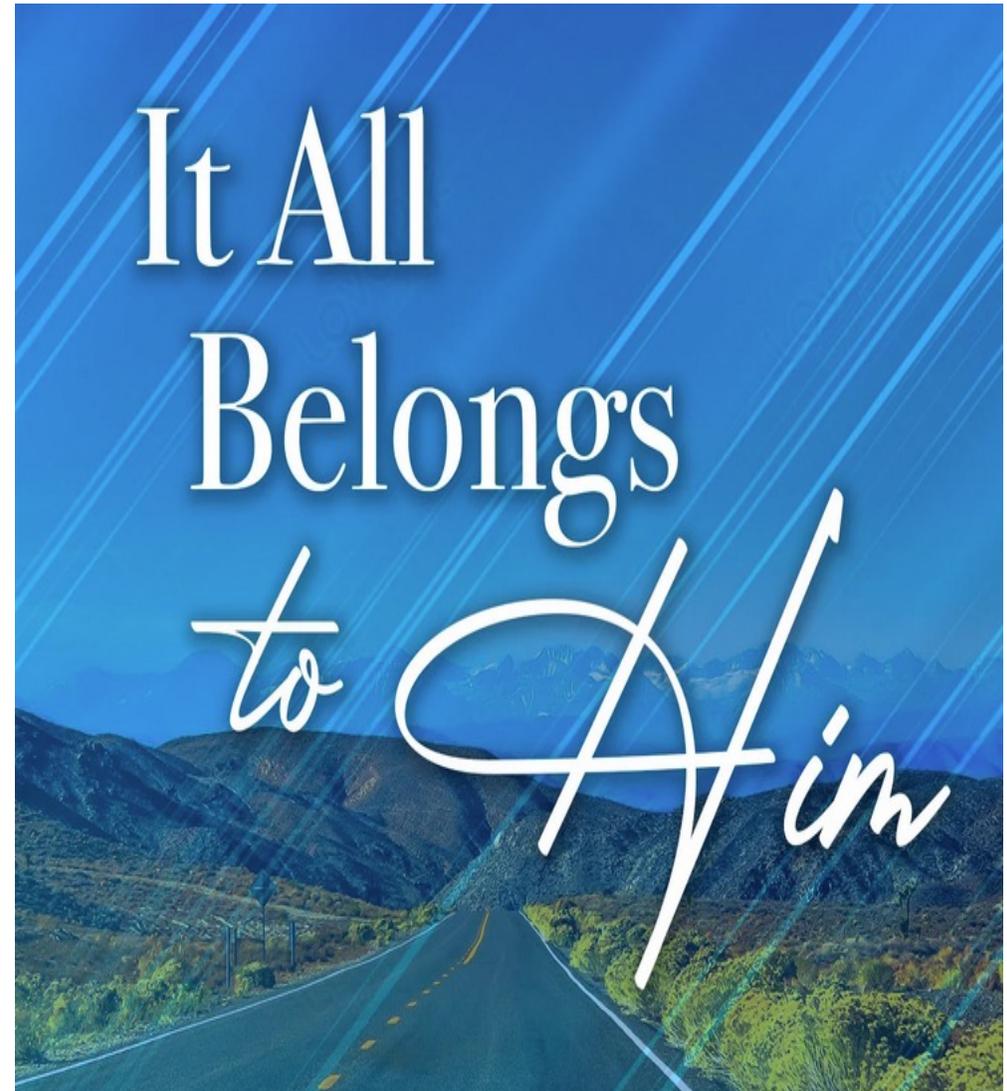


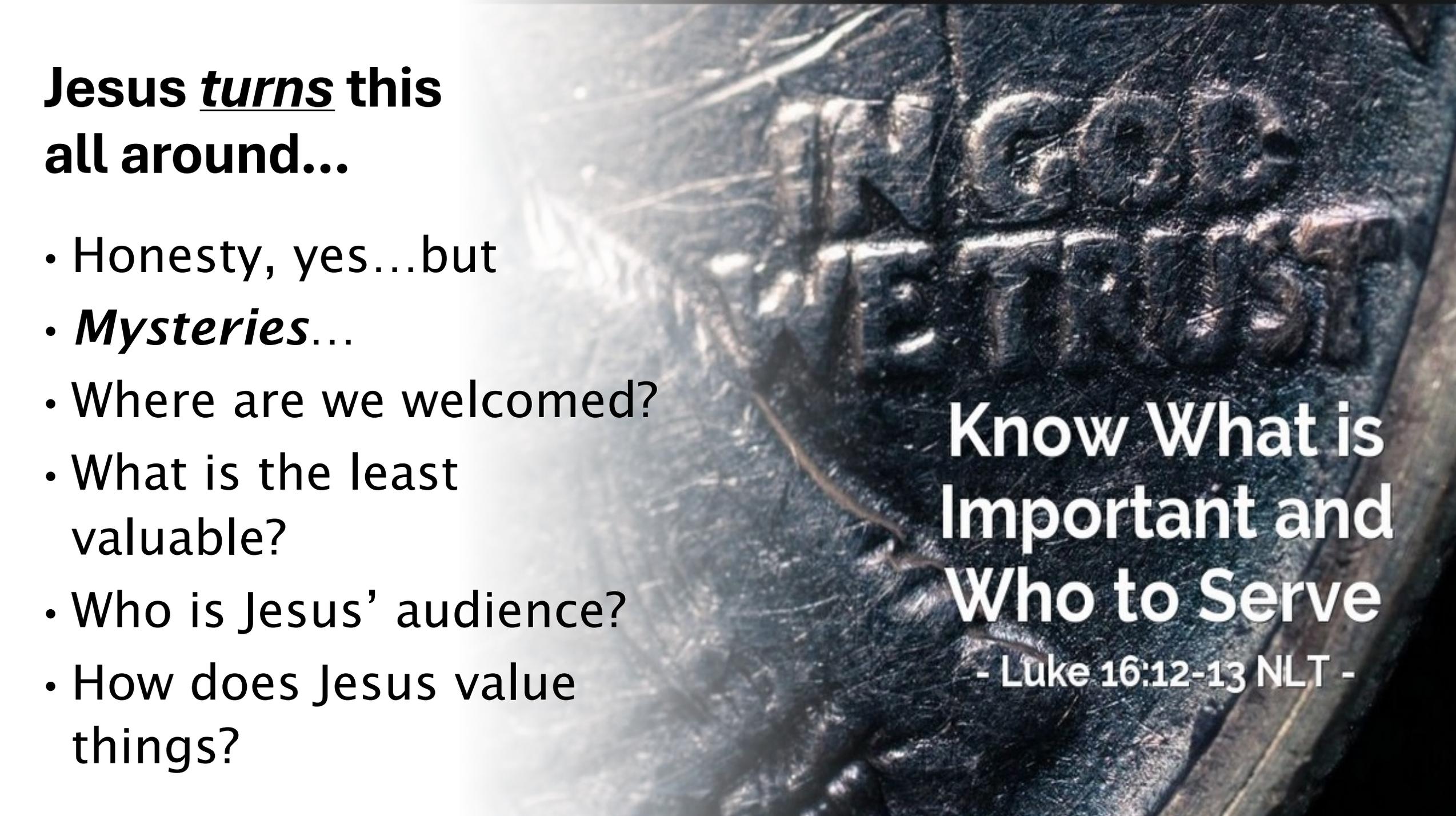
**The parable of the  
shrewd manager  
Luke 16:1-13**

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. <sup>11</sup> So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”

<sup>13</sup> “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

<sup>14</sup> The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.”





# Jesus turns this all around...

- Honesty, yes...but
- ***Mysteries...***
- Where are we welcomed?
- What is the least valuable?
- Who is Jesus' audience?
- How does Jesus value things?

**Know What is  
Important and  
Who to Serve**

- Luke 16:12-13 NLT -

*...eternal*

*...external*

*...internal*

## Three Predicaments...

- How do we relate to eternity?
- Whose world do we live in?
- Are we changing inside?
- *What comes next?*



At this point, Jesus identifies two other realities:

- ✓ The righteousness of God
- ✓ The permanence of Marriage

<sup>6</sup> “The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. <sup>17</sup> It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.

<sup>18</sup> “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.



- Standards?
- Permanence
- Faithfulness

Jesus relates...where  
we are going is very  
different from where  
we are...

*...let's return to the  
text*



*Jesus now targets  
wealth and  
eternity...*

## **The Rich Man and Lazarus**

<sup>19</sup> “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup> At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup> and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

<sup>22</sup> “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’





<sup>25</sup> “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

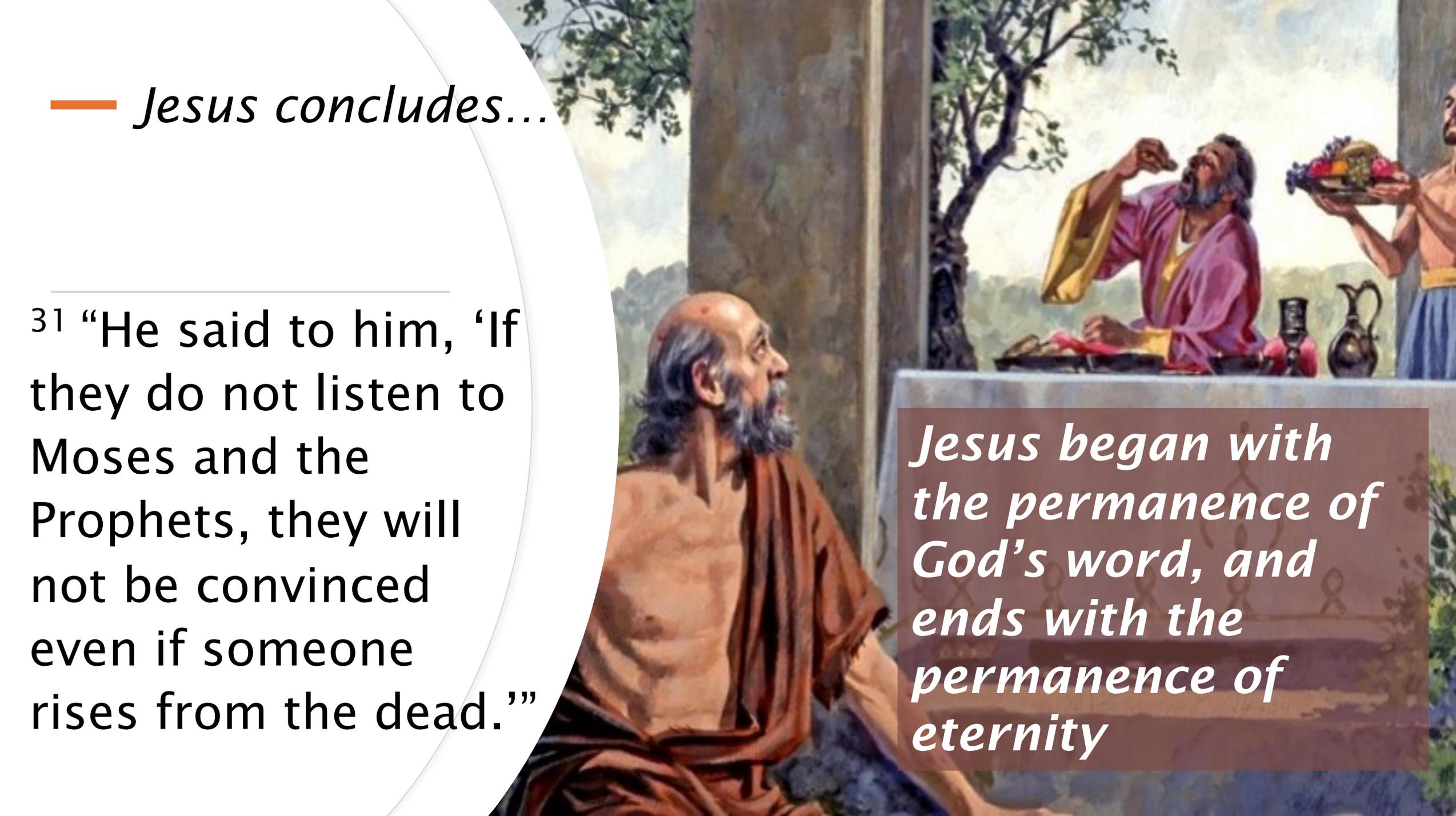
<sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

27 “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family,  
28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’  
29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’  
30 ““No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’



— *Jesus concludes...*

<sup>31</sup> “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”



*Jesus began with the permanence of God's word, and ends with the permanence of eternity*

This final statement of Jesus ties to **faith** in Luke 17...

***Let's Summarize:***

- Riches?
- Fairness?
- Warnings?
- God's Word and Faith
- *Following the parable of the the Prodigal Son, these parables continue to degrade wealth and emphasize faith and action and relationship!*

*...eternal*

*...external*

*...internal*

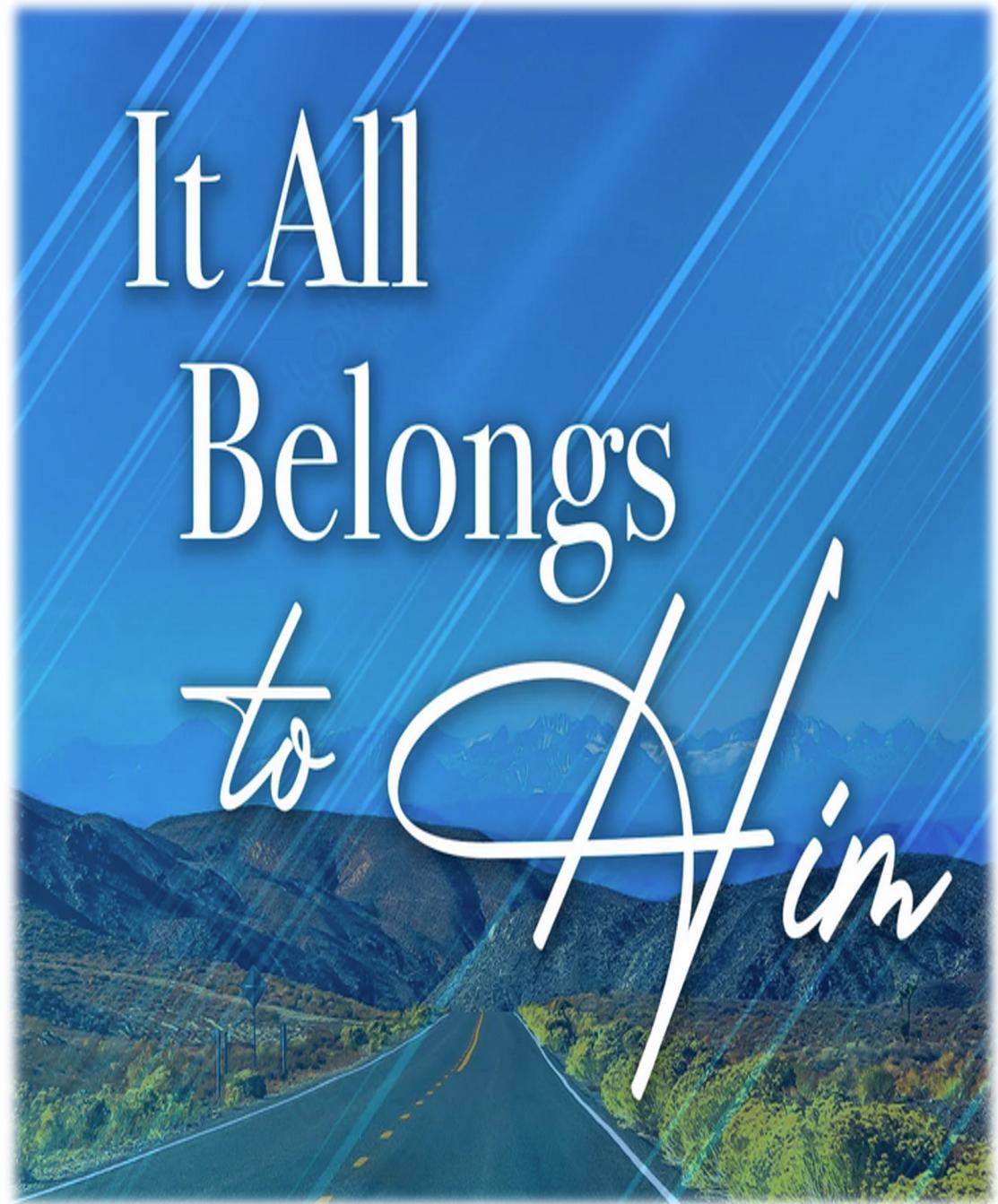
## Three Predicaments ...

- Eternity?
- Whose world is it?
- What's in our heart?



# Conclusions

- ❖ Prodigal son leads...
- ❖ Two parables about wealth
- ❖ Steward
- ❖ Rich Man
- ❖ Pharisees & Crowds
- ❖ *We will meet Zacchaeus in Luke 19...A perfect example!*





No one can  
serve two  
masters.

- LUKE 16:13 -

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**Imagine a young man who had everything**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3bdWccS2Fk>

**William Whiting Borden (1887 – 1913)**

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