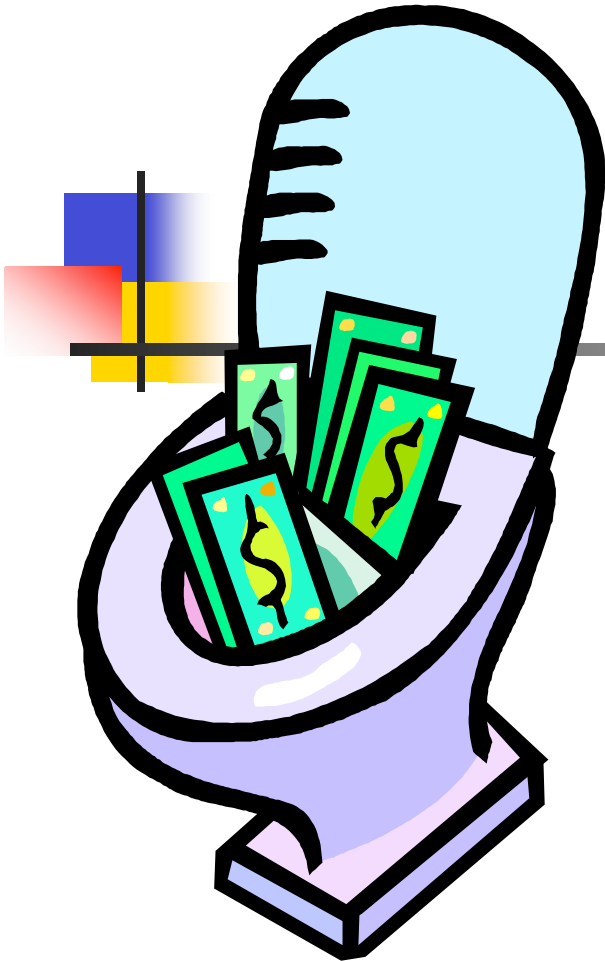


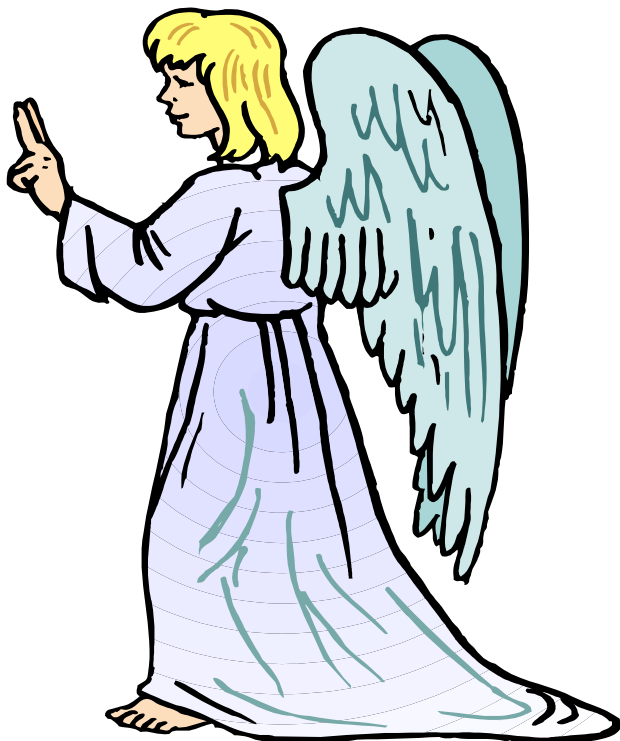
The Correct Use of Money



**Series: Return to
Our First Love**

Text: Luke 16:1-13

WSJ



- **“Money...an article which can be used as a universal passport to everywhere except heaven,...”**



Wall Street Journal

- **“ and a universal provider for everything except happiness.”**



Observation

- **Money provokes covetousness and competition, and is a wonderful servant, but a terrible master.**



Ministry or Monument?

- Are we building lives of ministry or are building monuments to our lives?



Giving

- **Giving God 10% is the beginning of faithful stewardship, but allowing Him to direct the use of the remaining 90% is the true blessing.**



Thesis

- If you are *misappropriating* the things of this world, how can you be trusted with the things of the world to come?



Stewardship

- Managing God-given resources to *achieve* God-given goals, such that God is given the glory



Use of Money

- **God uses money in three ways...**
- **A tool**
- **A test**
- **A testimony**





A Steward's Predicament

- **A unwise Steward has failed in his stewardship obligations (1-3)**



The Predicament

- **Too weak to work**
- **Too proud to beg**
- **Not too weak or too proud to steal**



A Steward's Plan

- A shrewd plan is needed to cover up his failure to handle his stewardship *obligations (4-7)*



The Plan

- **Manipulate the Debtors**
- **Manipulate the Boss**
- **Look out for #1**



A Master's Perspective

- **The Master acknowledges and commends the steward's plan.(8-9)**

Stewardship Principles



- The world's people are more devoted to monument-building than God's people are to ministry-building.



Application

- **Make friends, not just money**
- **Use money while it still has value**
- **A temporary tool for permanent good**



Stewardship Principles

- Money is a tool for building ministry and not for building monuments

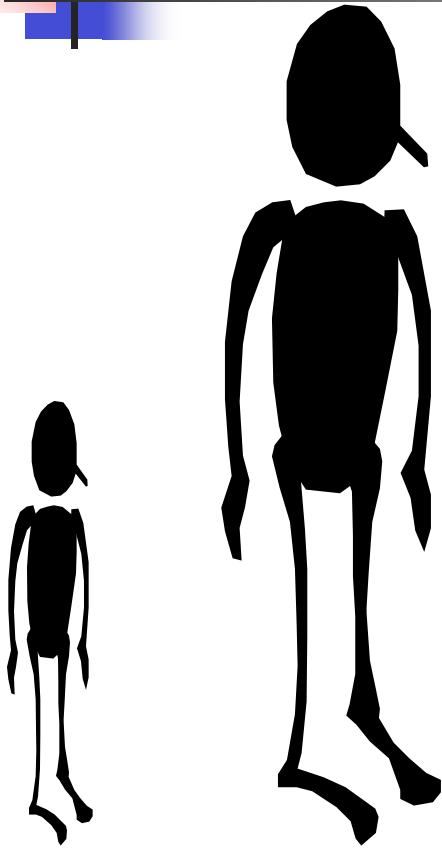


Clarification

- Money is a tool in ministry-building
- Money is the goal of monument-building

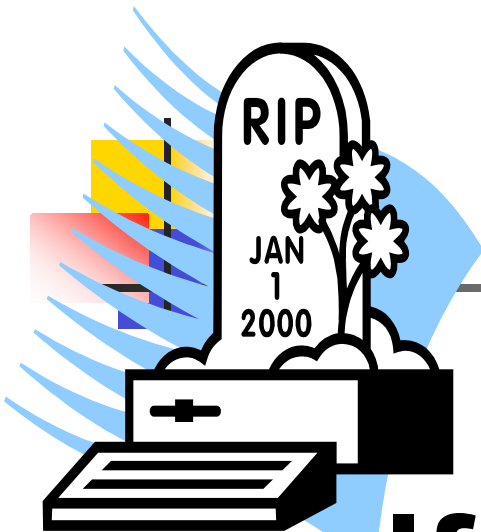


Application



- **The little things matter**
- **Faithful in little, faithful in much**
- **Crooked in little, crooked in much**

Stewardship Principles



- **If your life is not committed to building ministry, all you will have at the end is a monument.**



Application

- **Money is a test**
- **Fail the money test,
and you fail the
kingdom test**



Stewardship Principles



- **When your life is totally committed to building ministry, you will not have the resources for building monuments.**



Application

- **Do not love the world**
- **Do not love the things of the world**
- **Love of money and love of God are mutually exclusive concepts**