

## Luke 16 – The “One of These Things Is Not Like the Others” Chapter of the Book of Luke

**The contents of Luke 16 make this chapter unlike any of the others. It contains the most unusual and confusing stories and sayings of Jesus in the entire book.**

- *Why does the master in the story of the fired manager praise the manager for ripping him off?*
- *What is Jesus thinking, lifting up the crook in His story as an example for us to follow?*
- *How do you **force your way** into the kingdom?*
- *Where did this reference to divorce and remarriage and adultery come from?*
- *Is the account of the rich man and Lazarus a parable or an historical event?*
- *Are Hades and Abraham’s Bosom real places? Do they represent heaven and hell? Or are they something else?*

### **An Overview of Luke 16**

*how you use what you’ve got, while you’ve got it, tells me where you plan to be, and who you plan to be with, when you no longer have, what you once had*

#### ① The Story of the **Fired** Manager, Luke 16.1-13

The manager is charged with mismanagement and then discharged.

The manager slashes the debt of the rich man’s debtors, trusting that they will provide for him in the future.

The rich man commends the manager for his shrewdness.

*A follower of Jesus uses what he has now, looking ahead to what will*

#### ② The **Fiery** Rebuke of the Pharisees, Luke 16.14-18

The Pharisees ridicule Jesus.

Jesus condemns the Pharisees for justifying themselves.

Jesus announces a new age, but warns against a new morality.

#### ③ The Story (??) of the Rich Man on **Fire**, Luke 16.19-

31

We meet the rich man and Lazarus in this life.

We meet the rich man and Lazarus in the afterlife.

The rich man makes three requests, and all three are refused.

# Introducing the Doctrine of Common Grace

## A Definition

***Common Grace*** is the grace of God by which He gives people innumerable blessings that are not part of salvation. This grace is called common because it is common to all people, and not restricted just to believers. - Wayne Grudem, An Introduction to Systematic Theology

## Examples

Examples of *common grace* are seen in how God pours out material blessings and intellectual abilities on the unbeliever and the believer.

## Examples in Luke 16

Examples of *common grace* in this chapter include:

- The intelligence demonstrated by the dishonest manager.
  - We must be careful not to reject the good things that unbelievers do as totally evil.
- The material blessings enjoyed by the rich man in this life.
  - We must be careful not to assume that those who enjoy God's *common grace* will experience His saving grace.
- The poverty endured by Lazarus in this life.
  - We must be careful not to be discouraged when God has poured out more of His *common grace* on unbelievers than on ourselves. Trust Him.