



Kingdom-Minded Shrewdness

— The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15 —



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE



**MY SOUL IS
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN MY STUFF**

**OTHER PEOPLE'S SOULS
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN MY STUFF**



Kingdom-Minded Shrewdness

— The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15 —

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”



**“This man receives sinners
and eats with them.”**



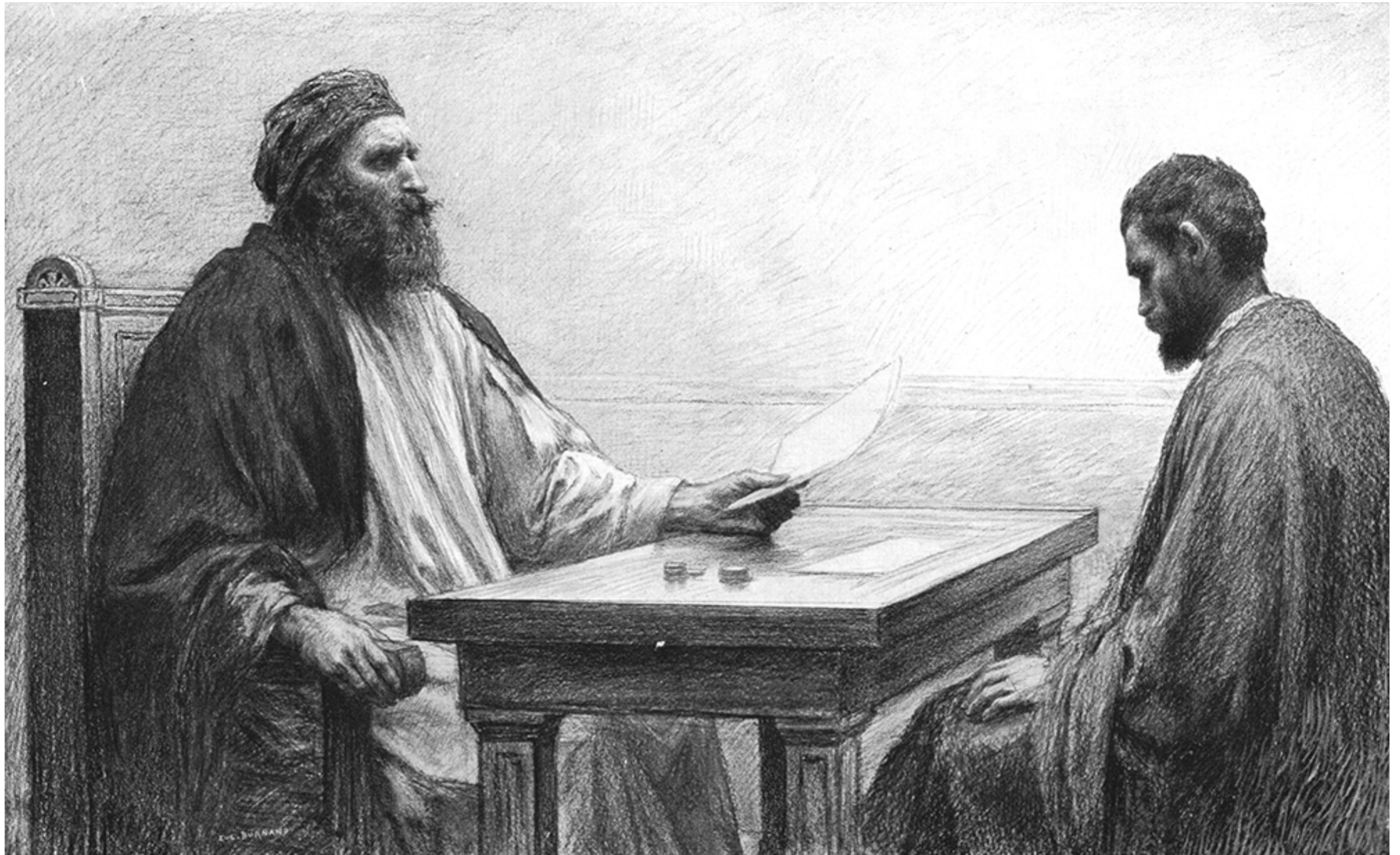
**The Father's
embrace means
there is always
grace greater
than our sin.**

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

1 He also said to his disciples, “There was **a rich man** who had **a manager**, and charges were brought to him that **this man was wasting** his possessions.

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

2 And he called him and said, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in your account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’



“Parable of the Dishonest Steward” by Eugene Burnand (1850-1921)

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

3 And 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, and I am ashamed to beg.’**

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

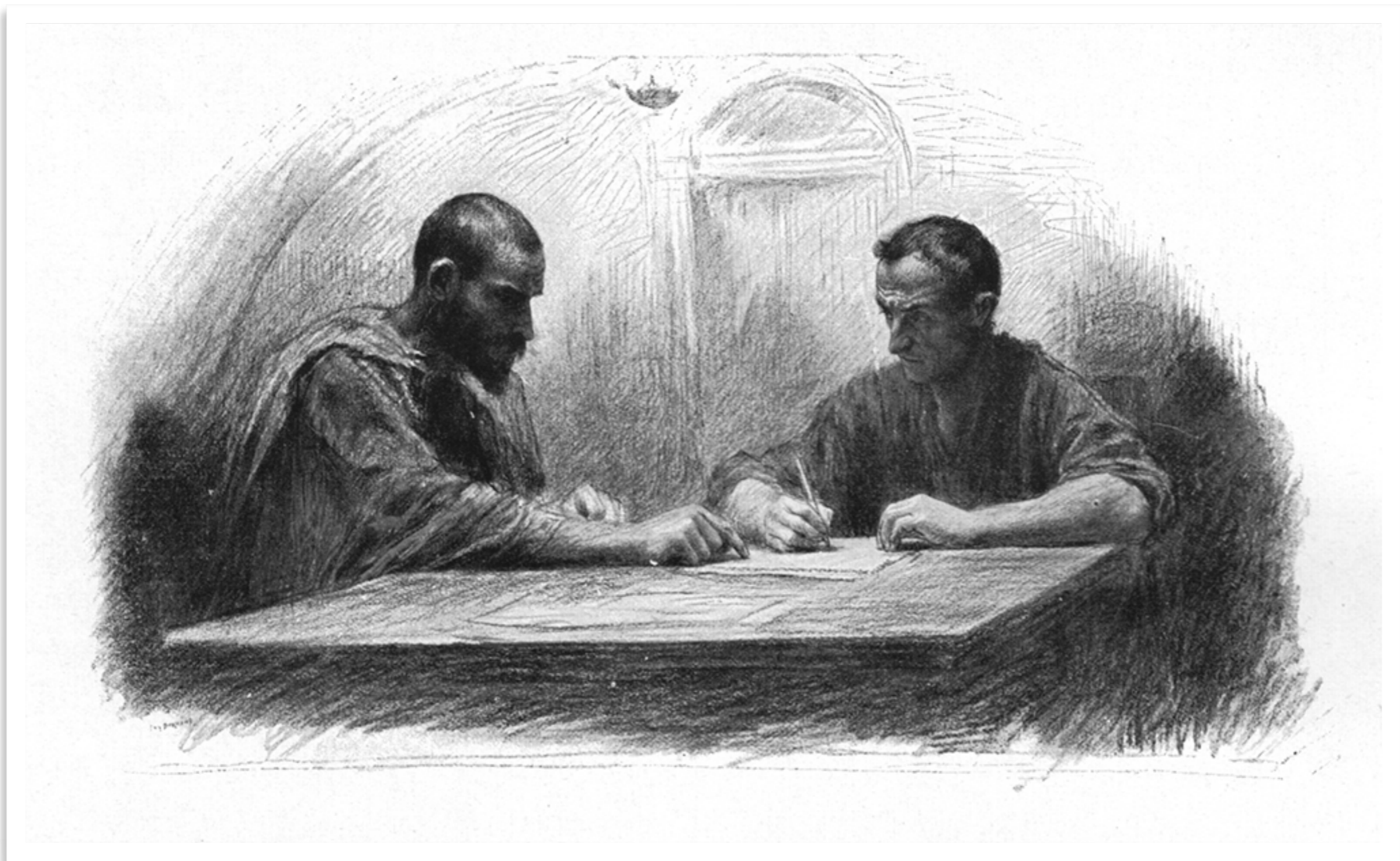
4 I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15


5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, **'How much do you owe my master?'** **6** And he said, **'A hundred measures of oil.'** He said to him, **'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.'**

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

7 Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and write eighty.'



“Parable of the Dishonest Steward” by Eugene Burnand

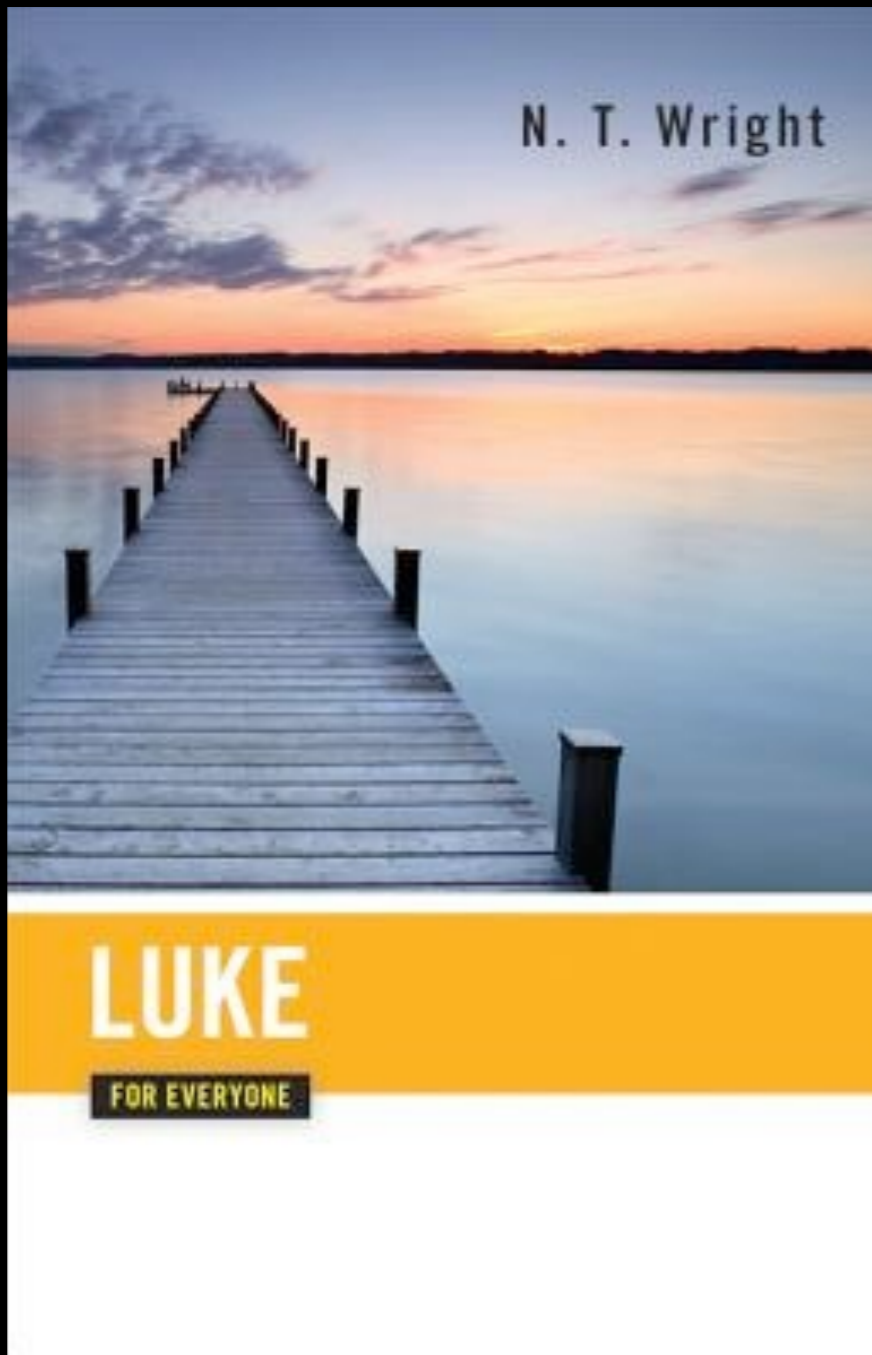


N. T. Wright

LUKE

FOR EVERYONE

It is likely that what the steward deducted from the bill was the interest that the master had been charging with a higher rate on oil than on wheat.



If he reduced the bill in each case to the principle, the simple amount that had been lent, the debtors would be delighted, but the master couldn't lay a charge against the steward without owning up to his own shady business practice.

**What is your
assessment
of the
manager**



The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

8 The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness.

An open dictionary is shown from a high-angle perspective, lying flat on a dark surface. The pages are filled with dense text in two columns. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is centered over the dictionary, containing white text. The word 'shrewd' is underlined with a thin white line.

shrewd

**having sharp powers of judgment
(smart, intelligent, clever, canny, perceptive)**

Key Observation

Jesus told this story to give an example of how clever, intelligent, and shrewd people can be when their own best interests compel them to act with foresight regarding their future.

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

8 The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

8 The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For **the sons of this world** are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation **than the sons of light.**

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

8 The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness.

For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.

Key Thought

If the people of this world use what resources they have to further their own interests, how much more should the followers of Jesus use what resources they have been entrusted with to further the interests of the kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

9 And I tell you, **make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into eternal dwellings.**



The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of **unrighteous wealth** so that when it fails they may receive you into eternal dwellings.

worldly wealth



The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of worldly wealth, so that when it fails, they may receive you into eternal dwellings.

— Christian Standard Bible —

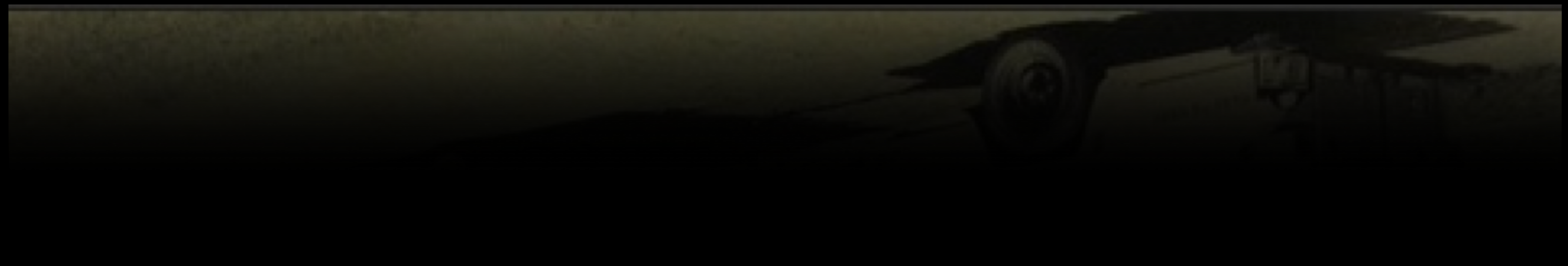
Key Thought

**We all think about the future,
but often we don't think far
enough into the future,
that is, into eternity.**

**There is great gain
in godliness with
contentment, for we
brought nothing into this
world, and we cannot
take anything out of it.**

The Apostle Paul
— 1 Timothy 6:6 —





Key Thought

Just like the manager shrewdly prepared for his future in this life, so too we ought to shrewdly prepare for our future in the life to come.

**Am I using the
resources I've been
entrusted with for the
Kingdom of God?
Am I using my stuff
to make friends that
will last forever?**



The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

10 One who is **faithful in a very little** is **also faithful in much**, and the one who **is dishonest in a very little** is also **dishonest in much**.

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

11 If then you have **not been faithful** in the unrighteous wealth, **who will entrust to you true riches?** 12 And if you have **not been faithful** in that which is another's, **who will give you that which is your own?**

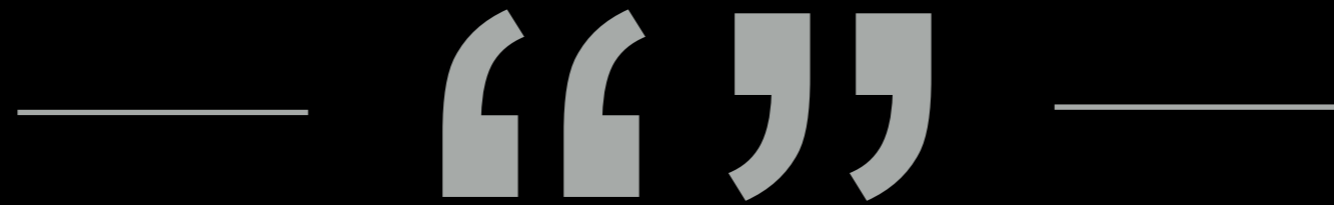


Jesus of Nazareth
The Gospel of Matthew, ch. 25

His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

13 No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.



**You cannot serve
God and money.**

Jesus of Nazareth

— The Gospel of Luke 16:13 —

Money says,

“It’s all about YOUR kingdom.”

Jesus says,

“It’s all about MY kingdom.”



**“This man receives sinners
and eats with them.”**

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

14 The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed Jesus.

An open dictionary is shown from a high angle, with its pages spread out. The pages are filled with dense text, and a small illustration of a building is visible on the left page. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the dictionary, containing the word 'ridicule' and its synonyms in white text. The background is dark and out of focus.

ridicule

**to deride, to jeer, to laugh at,
to mock, to scoff, to taunt**

**...those who desire
to be rich fall into
temptation, into a
snare, into many
senseless and harmful
desires that plunge
people into ruin and
destruction.**



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Timothy 6:9-10 —

**For the love of money
is a root of all kinds of
evil. It is through this
craving that some have
wandered away from
the faith and pierced
themselves with many
pangs.**



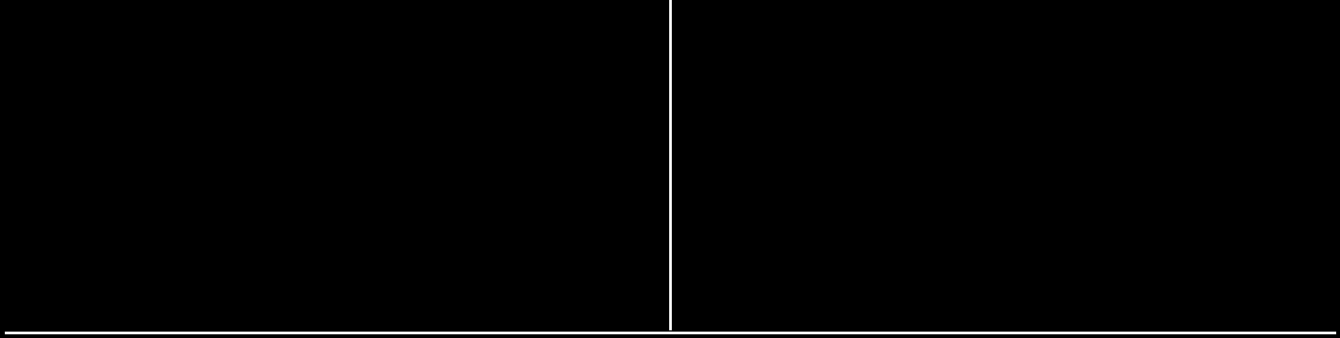
The Apostle Paul
— 1 Timothy 6:9-10 —

The Gospel of Luke 16:1-15

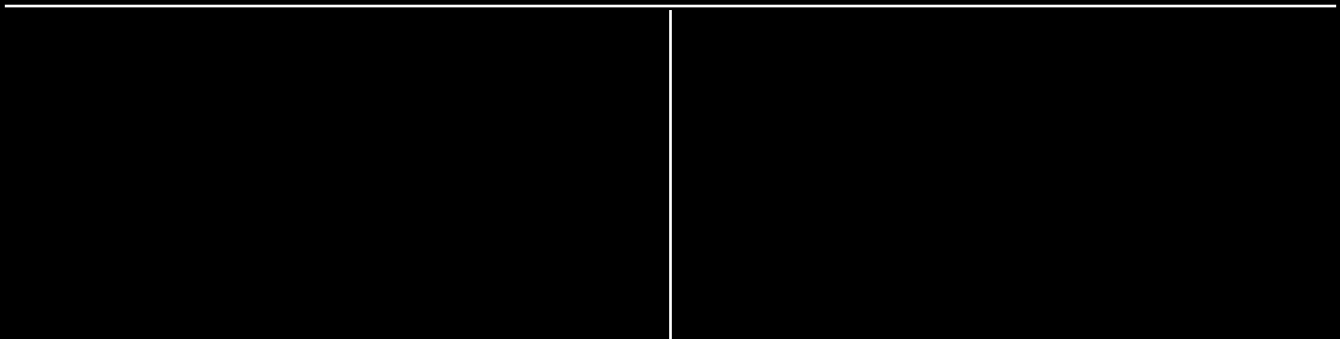
15 And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

Important Question

Why does Luke record this account in his historical biography of Jesus?



**People are far more important
than our stuff. Therefore, let's
use our resources to make
friends that will last forever.**



A close-up, high-angle shot of a stack of US dollar bills. The bills are fanned out, showing various denominations including \$100, \$50, and \$20. A bright red heart is placed on top of the stack, resting on a \$100 bill. The heart is the central focus, symbolizing love or passion. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark green band across the middle of the image.

The #1 competitor to God for the loyalty of your heart is the love of money.

**I know what you're
doing, Pastor. You
just want me to give
money to your church.**



**Let's do a spiritual inventory
of our souls & our money.**

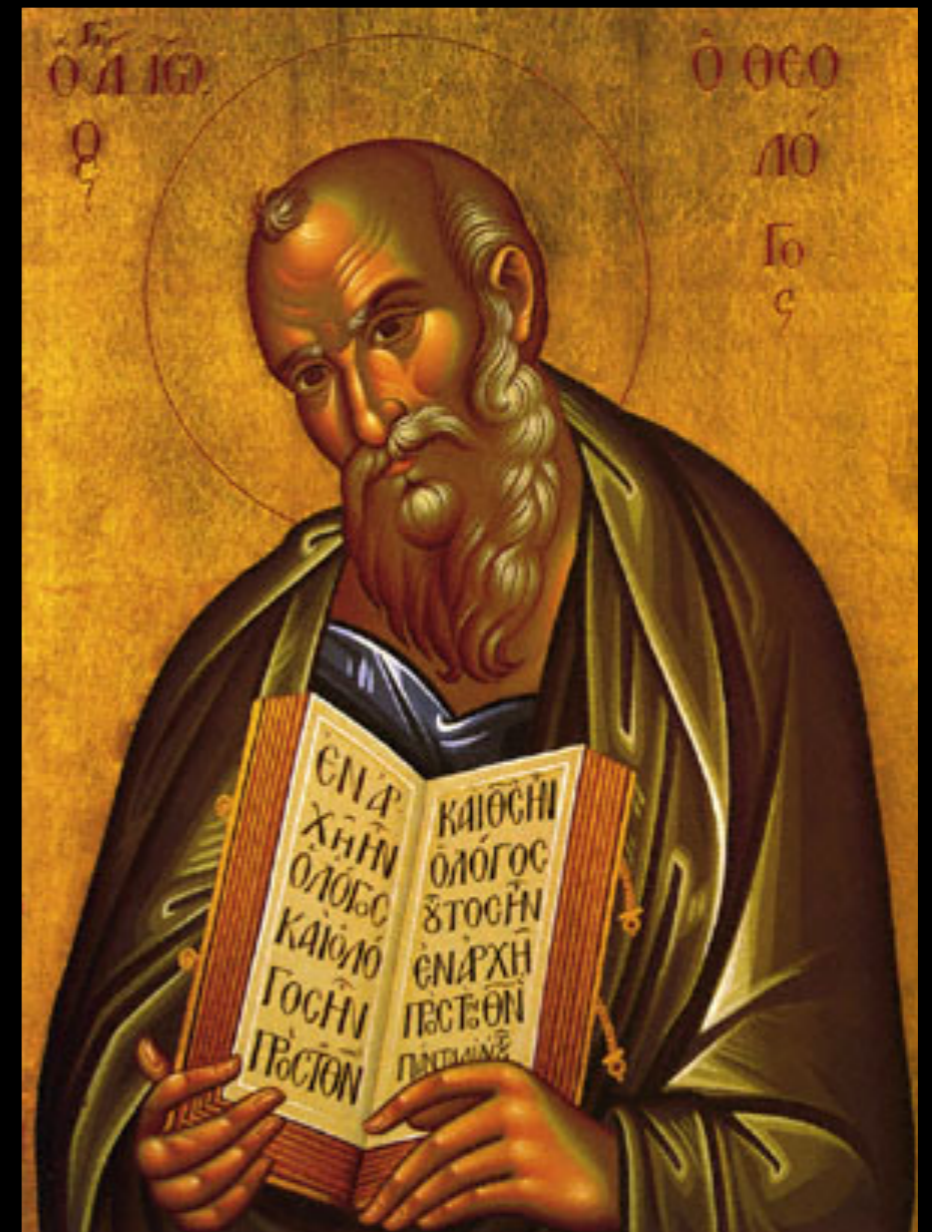




**For you know the grace
of our Lord Jesus
Christ, that though he
was rich, yet for your
sake he became poor, so
that you by his poverty
might become rich.**

— 2 Corinthians 8:9 —

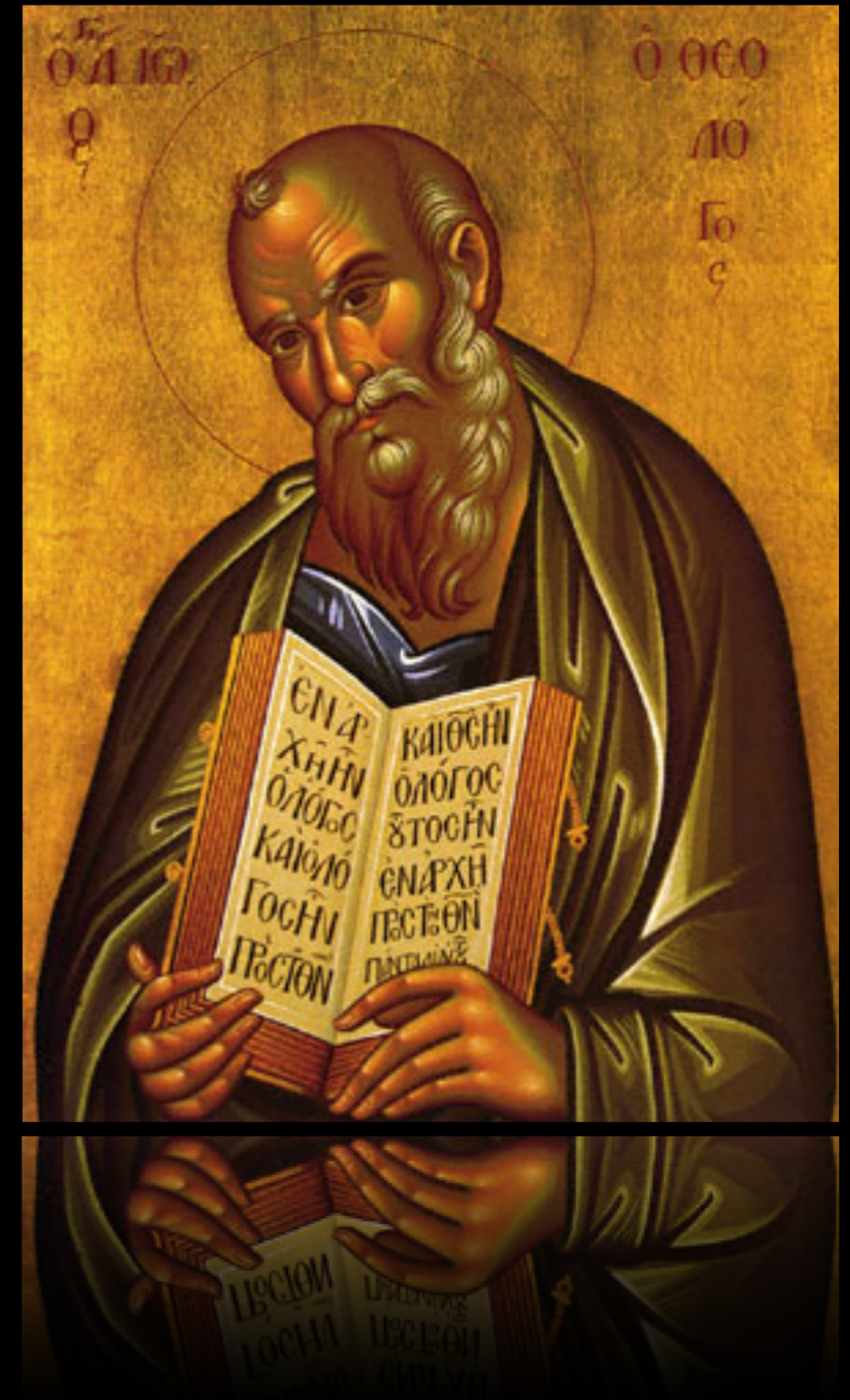
**By this we know love,
that he laid down his
life for us, and we
ought to lay down our
lives for the brothers.
But if anyone has the
world's goods and sees
his brother in need, yet
closes his heart against
him, how does God's
love abide in him?**



The Apostle John
— 1 John 3:16-18 —

**Little children, let
us not love in word
or talk but in deed
and in truth.**

The Apostle John
— 1 John 3:16-18 —



Let's Invest for Eternal Friendships!



**What kind of me
is God calling
me to be**



Thank you for giving to the Lord

I am a life that was changed

Thank you for giving to the Lord

I am so glad you gave



Ray Boltz, “Thank You”

— Song of the Year 1990 —

God is calling you and me to be shrewd, smart, intelligent, savvy, and perceptive in the way we invest our time, talent, and treasures for the glory of Christ & His kingdom, and for the good of others.



Jesus is inviting us to be the kind of people who use our resources to populate His kingdom by making friends who will joyfully welcome us there.





**May you be a people
who live with a
kingdom-minded
shrewdness using
your resources
to make friends that
will last forever.**