

What Will Outlast You

Shrewdness stewardship and friendship with eternity in view

Seven day devotional | By Mika Akindoju

Begin with what has been entrusted to you

This seven-day plan explores Luke 16 with supporting Bible passages. Read each passage in your own Bible, reflect privately, pray, and choose a realistic action. The goal is thoughtful faithfulness with the resources and responsibilities already in your life.

The manager's debt reductions have several interpretations. Jesus' following instructions emphasize faithful stewardship and serving God rather than money. The applications to skills and experience draw on the supporting passages; they are not all stated directly in the parable.

Generosity does not purchase salvation or guarantee repayment. You may receive help, set appropriate boundaries, and keep personal information private. Use the writing space as freely as you wish.

Daily rhythm: Read the passage • Reflect • Pray • Take one practical step

Day 1 Notice the opportunity

Read: Luke 16:1–9

Consider

The manager recognizes that his position is ending and makes a plan while he can still act. The story's financial arrangements are debated, but his foresight is clear. Consider an opportunity you have treated as permanent. Attentiveness can begin with one timely, honest action.

Reflect

What opportunity is available to me in this season? What have I delayed that deserves attention?

Practice

Choose one worthwhile action and put a realistic time for it on your calendar.

Pray

Father, help me notice the opportunity before me and act with integrity. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 2 Be faithful with what belongs to another

Read: Luke 16:10–13

Consider

Jesus connects small matters with trustworthiness and asks about our care for another person's property. Stewardship includes money, responsibilities, and agreements. In friendship, it also invites care with what has been entrusted to us in confidence. Examine one commitment without trying to defend your whole character.

Reflect

Which responsibility needs a more honest account? Is there a promise I need to keep, clarify, or repair?

Practice

Complete one manageable commitment or communicate truthfully about what you can do.

Pray

Lord, make me trustworthy in the decisions that seem small. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 3 Give beyond the prospect of repayment

Read: Luke 14:12–14

Consider

Jesus instructs a host to include people who cannot return the invitation. Read this beside Luke 16's teaching about making friends. Generosity can reach a person who has no influence to offer us. Consider how care can remain sincere without making someone indebted to you.

Reflect

Whom might I overlook because she cannot advance my interests? Can I offer help without requiring gratitude or access in return?

Practice

Offer one affordable, appropriate kindness without asking for a favor.

Pray

God, open my attention to people whose needs I have overlooked. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 4 Let a gift meet a real need

Read: 1 Peter 4:10–11 and Acts 9:36–39

Consider

Peter calls believers to serve with their gifts. Tabitha's good works are remembered through garments shown by widows she helped. A skill becomes useful when it meets a particular need. You do not have to offer everything you can do; choose an appropriate contribution within your capacity.

Reflect

What ability could meet a real need? Have I asked what would actually help?

Practice

Ask someone whether a specific offer would be useful before making arrangements.

Pray

Lord, help me use my abilities with care and humility. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 5 Use resources thoughtfully

Read: Luke 8:1–3

Consider

Luke records women who supported Jesus' ministry from their resources. Financial provision matters. Today your resources may include earnings, materials, or access through your work. Consider where generosity can fit responsibly alongside your obligations. Do not promise money or authority that belongs to someone else.

Reflect

What resources are genuinely mine to offer? What need could thoughtful giving help address?

Practice

Identify an affordable gift or a practical resource you can responsibly share.

Pray

Father, teach me to use my resources faithfully and thoughtfully. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 6 Offer comfort with permission

Read: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Consider

God's comfort enables believers to comfort others. An experience of hardship may make you attentive to someone's loneliness. Your story does not explain every detail of hers. Ask before sharing, protect privacy, and recognize when support beyond your own capacity is needed. Receiving help can also be an act of honesty.

Reflect

What comfort have I received that I could share appropriately? Where do I need support myself?

Practice

Offer a listening conversation or ask a trustworthy person for a specific kind of help.

Pray

God of comfort, teach me to listen and to receive care as well as give it. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 7 Serve with eternity in view

Read: Luke 16:9–13 and Ephesians 2:8–10

Consider

Luke connects our use of temporary wealth with an eternal future. Ephesians places good works within a life received by grace. We are not purchasing heaven or controlling the results of our service. We can choose a faithful act, keep our commitments, and trust God with what follows.

Reflect

What have I learned about my resources and responsibilities this week? What one practice can I continue sustainably?

Practice

Write one continuing commitment with its frequency, limits, and first action.

Pray

Lord, let gratitude for Your grace shape my service and my hope. In Jesus' name, amen.

Optional group conversation

Read Luke 16:1–13 and Luke 14:12–14 together. Participants may pass on any question. Do not ask anyone to disclose finances or painful personal history.

What does Jesus explicitly teach after the parable? Which details of the manager's actions remain uncertain?

How does helping someone who cannot repay us shape our understanding of friendship?

What is the difference between a generous commitment and a promise we cannot sustain?

Where could our group coordinate care so responsibility is shared?

What one deliberate action will you take, and what help would make it possible?

Close with prayer for wisdom, integrity, and the people whose needs have come to your attention.

Study note: The companion sermon and blog contain research and interpretive references. This devotional summarizes Scripture and offers pastoral applications. It does not promise financial return or a particular heavenly reunion in exchange for service.