

Generous Investing 慷慨的投資

Luke 路加福音 16:1-15

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Jesus tells a story about a manager who saw the future. He knew what he wanted, and what he needed to do now to make it better for himself, and he just went for it.

耶穌講述了一個看到未來的管家的故事。他知道自己想要什麼，也知道現在需要做什麼才能讓自己變得更好，所以他就全力以赴。

WISE INVESTING 明智的投資

A manager like this managed the owner's estate and invested his money. This manager has been doing a poor job and so gets a termination notice. He's in trouble. When word gets around that he hasn't been managing well he isn't likely to get another manager's job.

這樣的管家管理著某財主的所有錢財產並作出投資。這位管家的工作表現很差，因此收到了解僱通知。他有麻煩了。當有消息稱他管理不佳時，他不太可能得到另一份管家的職位。

He's been sitting too long in an office to start digging trenches for a living, and won't lower himself to begging. There are no social services. How is he going to live? What is he going to do? 他已經很長時間只坐在辦公室裡，鋤地嘛，沒有力氣；討飯嘛，怕羞。當時是沒有社會福利。他將要怎樣生活？他將來可以做甚麼呢？

He makes a decision today that will pay benefits in the future. That's the key idea of this story. But it's the details around this which can be distracting for us.

他今天做出一個決定將要在未來帶來好處。這就是這個故事的關鍵思想。但有一些細節可能會讓我們分心。

Here it is in vv.5-7, *So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' "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.'*

就是第 5-7 節，於是他把欠他主人債的，一個一個地叫了來，問頭一個說：『你欠我主人多少？』6 他說：『一百筭油。』管家對他說：『拿你的賬，快坐下，寫五十。』7 他問另一個說：『你欠多少？』他說：『一百石麥子。』管家對他說：『拿你的賬，寫八十。』

The master's response in v.8 seems a little odd though: *The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly.*

主人有第 8 節中的回應似乎有點奇怪：主人就誇獎這不義的管家做事精明。

Why would the owner commend the manager for his action here? One of the best theories is that the manager was adding his own fees.

為什麼財主會誇獎管家的行為？最好的理論之一是那管家本來加入了自己的費用。

This could be the reason why he is called dishonest at the beginning. The master was getting interest on the investment, BUT so was the manager.

這可能就是他一開始被稱為不義的原因。財主從投資中可得到回報，但管家也同樣得到他的費用。

If he was to **take his own fees out**, not only does he make the debtors happy, but he also gives his master a better name in town too.

如果他把自己的費用除去，不僅讓欠債的人高興，而且也讓他的主人在城裡有更好的名聲。

Whether that is exactly how it worked, Jesus' point is this man is living his life and using wealth with an eye on the future. The master commended him because he acted **shrewdly**. It was a wise decision.

無論事情是否確實如此，耶穌的觀點是，這個人著眼於未來地去過自己的生活，並利用財富。主人誇獎他**做事精明**。作出了一個明智的決定。

But the rebuke in the second half of v.8 is hard to hear. This wise investing is one that **Christians fail in: For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind (their own generation) than are people of the light.**

但第8節後半部分的責備卻很難被接受。在於這種明智的投資**基督徒是很失敗的：因為今世之子應付自己的世代比光明之子更加精明**。

Jesus is saying that this manager is wiser in the use of his master's wealth than his disciples are with God's.

耶穌是說，這位管家在使用他主人的財富方面比他的門徒使用上帝的財富更明智。

GOD'S INVESTMENT MANAGERS 上帝的投資管家

This is the first thing we learn is we are all stewards of someone else's resources. The word MANAGER can also be translated as STEWARD. This man is managing someone else's money. 這是我們學到的第一件事：我們都是別人的資源的管家。「經理」這個詞也可以翻譯為「管家」。這個人正在管理別人的錢。

As a fund manager you can't do anything you want because it isn't your money. If we understand there is a God, we'll know that whatever we have is not ours.

作為基金管家，你不能為所欲為，因為不是你的錢。如果我們明白有一位上帝，我們就會知道我們擁有的一切都不是我們的。

That's hard to hear because we have a strong attachment to our wealth and possessions. If you are a Christian there is a much broader context to put this truth into.

這是很難接受的訊息，因為我們對自己的財富和財產有強烈的依戀。如果你是基督徒，就有更廣泛的背景來闡述這個真理。

Christians believe that God made everything and sustains everything. We have life and skills and opportunities that he has gifted us with.

基督徒相信上帝創造了一切並維持著一切。我們擁有的是神賦予我們的生命、技能和機會。

Without those gifts we would not make any money at all. Without the life gives us day by day we'd have no ability to make money.

沒有這些禮物，我們根本就賺不到錢。如果沒有日復一日的生命給予了我們，我們就沒有能力賺錢。

It's a gift to be healthy and able to work. Being born in a time and place like this with it's opportunities is a gift.

有健康並能夠工作是一份禮物。出生在這時這地並擁有這樣的機會是一份禮物。

We work with the life, circumstances, talents that God has given us. We are stewards of it all.

This is the prayer of the fabulously wealthy and powerful King David in 1 Chronicles 29:

我們利用上帝賦予我們的生命、環境和才能來工作。我們是這一切的管理者。這是極其富有和強大的大衛王在《歷代志上》第29章中的祈禱：

everything in heaven and earth is yours ...Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things ...who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand ...all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.

天上地下的一切都是你的……豐富尊榮都從你而來，你也治理萬物……我算甚麼，我的百姓算甚麼，竟然能夠如此樂意奉獻？因為萬物都從你而來，我們把從你的手得來的獻給你……我們預備這許多材料，要為你的聖名建造殿宇，都是從你的手而來，都是屬你的。

As stewards of God's resources, what are his expectations of how they be managed? Radical generosity. If we are not being radically generous it is fraud, robbery. Not just a lack of compassion but a lack of integrity.

作為上帝的資源的管家，他對如何管理這些資源有什麼期望？激進的慷慨。如果我們不徹底慷慨，那就是欺詐、搶劫。不僅缺乏同情心，而且缺乏誠信。

Malachi 3:8 states it clearly: **“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ ‘In tithes and offerings.** The people in the Old Testament were told that 10% of their income needed to be given away as the starting point.

《瑪拉基書》3章8節明確指出：人豈可搶奪上帝呢？你們竟搶奪我！你們卻說：『我們在何事上搶奪你呢？』其實就是在你們當納的十分之一奉獻和當獻的供物上。舊約中的人們被告知，作為起步點他們需要將收入的十分之一奉獻出來。

The New Testament standards are not lower. Especially when we have a greater hope, greater revelation, greater grace, greater benefit.

新約的標準並不低。尤其是當我們有更大的盼望、更大的啟示、更大的恩典、更大的益處時。

If we think that 10% is a lot of money then maybe we are thinking about it in the wrong way. Imagine someone brings you on as their investment manager and the terms are you get to keep 90% of the returns and the owner gets 10%.

如果我們認為十分之一是很多錢，那麼我們的想法可能是錯誤的。想像一下，有人邀請您擔任他們的投資管家，條件是您可獲得十分之九的回報，邀請您的人只取回十分之一。

Who would knock back those terms! That is how generous God is. But if we love money more than we love God then those terms won't be enough. We are stewards of money that is not ours. 有誰會推翻這樣的條款！這就是上帝的慷慨。但如果我們愛金錢勝過愛上帝，那麼這樣的條件也是不了。我們是不屬於我們的錢財的管家。

INVESTING IN FRIENDS 用錢財結交朋友

There is something even more amazing here. Verse 9 is the goal Jesus has in mind with our stewardship of his resources. The goal is our happiness, love and security.

這裡還有更令人驚奇的事情。第9節是耶穌對我們管理他的資源所設定的目標。那目標是幸福、愛和安全。

I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

我又告訴你們，要藉著那不義的錢財結交朋友，到了錢財無用的時候，他們可以接你們到永遠的住處去。

This manager puts aside short term financial gain for the sake of gaining something that was long term more valuable.

這位管家為了獲得長期更有價值的東西而擱置了短期的財務收益。

A wise investment is where you put your money into something that will increase in value. So what can we put our money into that will really last?

明智的投資是將錢投入到會增值的事物上。那麼我們可以把錢財投資在哪些方面才能真正持久呢？

Jesus gives us a very helpful perspective here when he says in v9 *so that when it is gone*. He is saying that no investment that is for this world will last.

當耶穌在第9節中說「**到了錢財無用的時候**」時，給了我們一個非常有幫助的觀點。他是在說，任何針對這個世界的投資都不會持久。

There is no material thing, no asset, no place where we can put our money that will really, really, last. Put your money into building the kingdom of God.

沒有任何物質的東西，沒有資產，沒有一個地方可以讓我們真真正正持久地放置我們的錢財。把你的錢投資在建設神的國度。

What I love about the way Jesus puts it here is that he doesn't stay at the abstract level. I'm logically convinced by the argument for long term investment that grows in value forever.

我喜歡耶穌在這裡表達的方式，因為他沒有停留在抽象的層面上。從邏輯上講，我相信長期投資會永遠增值的論點。

What Jesus says next however is what moves my heart and causes me to open my wallet. I hope it does for you too.

然而，耶穌接下來所說的話觸動了我的心，讓我打開了錢包。我希望它也對你有同樣的作用。

Look at how Jesus describes the eternal dwelling in v9? How does he describe heaven in v9 - **friends**. Use your money now to gain friends who will welcome you into eternal dwellings. 看看耶穌在第 9 節中如何描述永遠的住處？他在第 9 章描述天堂為《朋友》。現在就用你的錢來結交朋友，他們會歡迎你進入永恆的住處。

Let me quote one commentator who wrote on this verse. It is the main point of the parable: *Although these things - your property, ability, time - belong to this life only, says Jesus, yet what will happen to you then, when you pass into that life, will depend on what you are doing with them here and now. Make sure that your use of them brings you into a fellowship of friends which will survive beyond death.* (Michael Wilcock, *The Message of Luke*, p.160)

讓我引用一位評論員對這節經文的評論。這是這個比喻的要點：耶穌說，雖然這些東西——你的財產、能力、時間——只屬於今生，但當你進入永生時，你會發生什麼，將取決於你在世時怎樣運用它們。要確保你使用它們去讓你擁有很多可超越死亡的朋友和友誼。（邁克爾·威爾科克，《路加福音》，第 160 頁）

See the point? We look to money to give us security and significance, but genuine security and significance is relational not material.

明白重點了嗎？我們指望金錢能給我們帶來安全感和意義，但真正的安全感和意義是關係性的，而不是物質性的。

In the end the thing we all need is love. We feel truly wealthy when we are loving people and are surrounded by people who love us back.

歸根結底，我們最終都需要的是愛。當我們愛別人並且周圍都是愛我們的人時，我們會感到真正的富有。

That is when we truly feel alive. And yet, the love we really need is always out of reach in this life. We can get a taste of it now, but the best is yet to come.

那是我們真正感受到活著的時候。然而，我們真正需要的愛卻在今生總是遙不可及。我們現在可以嚐到它的滋味，但最好的還在後頭。

The thinking that heaven is a place of harps, crowns and gold doesn't move me in the same way as heaven being a world of love does. Heaven is a place of friendships. A place of deep relationships. It's a place of real love. A place where we love and are loved without barriers.

想到天堂是一個充滿豎琴、王冠和黃金的地方的想法並不像天堂是一個充滿愛的世界那樣讓我感動。天堂是一個充滿友誼的地方。一個有著深厚關係的地方。這是一個充滿真愛的地方。一個我們無障礙地愛和被愛的地方。

It's a place to really hope for and invest in now. The love we experience in this world is a foretaste of what will be but it falls short of what it will be in heaven.

這是一個現在真正值得期待和投資的地方。我們在這個世界上經歷的愛是對未來的愛的預嘗，但它遠不及天堂哪裡的愛。

Love now is all too often a source of pain. There are barriers to loving and being loved in this world that won't exist in heaven. This makes heaven such an incredible prospect.

在世的愛常常是痛苦的根源。這個世界上愛與被愛的障礙在天堂裡是不存在的。這使得天堂成為一個令人難以置信的前景。

One barrier we face now, that won't be then, is that we are often **not loved for our own sake**. It's painful when we discover that people are not loving us for our own sake but actually using us to get something.

我們現在面臨的一個障礙（以後不會）是我們常常不因為我們自己是誰或為了我們自己而被愛。當我們發現人們並不是為了我們自己而愛我們，而是實際上利用我們來獲得某些東西時，我們會感到痛苦。

It is very rare for any of us to love another totally for their own sake. Most love to get something. In heaven we will be loved absolutely and completely and fully for who we are.

我們中很少有人完全為了他人自己而愛哪一個人。大多數人都喜歡得到一些東西。在天堂裡，我們會因為我們是誰而被絕對地、完全地、充分地被愛。

Another barrier is the inability to express love without hindrance. Pride, selfishness, defensiveness, pettiness and coldness means we can't do it. It's like having an ocean of love in the heart that can only get expressed through a straw.

另一個障礙是無法無障礙地表達愛。驕傲、自私、防衛、狹隘和冷漠意味著我們做不到。就像心中有一大片愛的海洋，卻只能通過一根吸管來表達。

We can't even get close to expressing our love fully without hindrance. But in heaven we will love without impediment. All sin, pride, selfishness, pettiness, defensiveness will be gone.

我們甚至無法毫無阻礙地充分表達我們的愛。但在天堂裡我們會毫無障礙地去愛。所有的罪惡、驕傲、自私、狹隘、防禦都會消失。

We also struggle to find a mutual love. Is there anything more painful than to love someone more than they love you back?

我們在尋找彼此的愛情方面也有掙扎。還有什麼會比愛一個人勝過他也愛你更痛苦的事嗎？

It's very rare for love to be mutual at the same time. In this life, many of the people we love, we love them more than they love us back.

同時是相互的愛是非常罕見的。在這一生中，我們所愛的許多人通常是我們愛他們勝過他們愛我們。

That is nothing but pain. But in heaven everyone will love everyone else mutually and fully.

這樣除了是只有痛苦便沒其他。但在天堂裡，每個人都會彼此充分地相愛。

There is also the barrier of the unhappiness of those you love. Think about this for a minute, once you start having children, for the rest of your life, you're never happier than your unhappiest child.

還有你愛的人不幸福快樂的障礙。想一想，一旦你開始有了孩子，在你的餘生中，你永遠不會比你最不快樂的孩子更快樂。

We can never be any happier than the people we love. Their heart becomes our heart. If you love more than five people then you are always unhappy!

我們永遠不會比我們所愛的人更快樂。他們的心成為我們的心。如果你愛超過五個人，你就總會是不快樂！

CS Lewis said that if you don't want your heart to be broken then stop loving people.

劉易斯說，如果你不想讓自己心碎，那就停止愛人。

That is the only option. Of course you become a hard person and you are right on your way to hell.

這是唯一的選擇。你當然會成為一個心硬難相處的人，並且你正走在通往地獄的路上。

Love is such a source of pain, but not in heaven. Everyone will be perfectly happy and filled with a never ceasing joy.

愛是痛苦的源頭，但在天堂卻不是。每個人都會非常幸福快樂並充滿永不停息的喜悅。

The greatest barrier to love would have to be separation. We want a love where we will never be separated from the people we love.

愛的最大障礙就是分離。我們想要一種永遠不會與我們所愛的人分開的愛。

It is painful knowing that when you marry someone, it is highly likely, that one of you will bury the other one.

當你與某人結婚後，知道你們當中的一個人很可能會埋葬另一半，是一件痛苦的事情。

This is the way our relationships are here, but not there. We are made to desire the kind of relationships, friendship and love that is in the kingdom of God.

這就是我們在這世上的關係，但在那裡卻不是這樣。我們生來就渴望神國度裡的關係、友誼和愛。

We have been designed for what Jesus says heaven is going to be like.

我們是按照耶穌所說的天堂的樣子而被設計的。

Knowing and experiencing the pain of relationships in this world it is hard for us to imagine it.

了解並經歷這個世界上人際關係的痛苦是我們很難想像的。

Hard to believe it in fact. Just imagine what it would be like to completely believe it though.

事實上很難相信。想像一下完全相信它會是什麼樣子。

Imagine what it would be like to be completely sure of the future because of Jesus Christ has done.

想像一下，由於耶穌基督所做的事情，我們對未來完全有把握會是什麼樣子。

Imagine that to believe in Jesus is to be able to live with God and friends in absolutely perfect love forever. Love with no barriers - ever! Just imagine what that would do to the way we would live now?

想像一下，相信耶穌就能夠以絕對完美的愛與神和朋友永遠生活在一起。沒有障礙地去愛——永遠地！想像一下這會對我們現在的生活方式產生什麼影響？

Would we not use our worldly wealth now knowing what really lasts is love - people, relationships, friends - and we have it all to look forward to.

我們現在知道真正持久的是愛——人、關係、朋友——而我們擁有這一切值得期待的，難道我們不會利用我們的世俗財富嗎？

Don't put money before people. Put your money into solving people's needs. Use your money to create a fellowship of eternal friends.

不要把錢看得比人重要。把你的錢用於解決人們的需求。用你的錢來建立永恆的朋友關係。

When people find hope and love and faith in Jesus they will be your friends - forever. They will love you, and be loved by you, without any barrier.

當人們在耶穌裡找到希望、愛和信心時，他們將成為你永遠的朋友。他們會毫無障礙地愛你，並被你愛。

GENEROUS INVESTING to put the money you are a steward of into connecting people with their God who loves them like this.

慷慨的投資是把你管理的錢財投資在將人們與這樣愛他們的上帝聯繫起來。

RECIPIENTS OF WISE INVESTING 明智投資的接受者

All of this hope and joy is possible because we are recipients of the ULTIMATE LOVE & FRIENDSHIP.

所有這些希望和喜樂都是可能的，因為我們是終極的愛和友誼的接受者。

In 2 Corinthians 8 the apostle Paul is encouraging the church in Corinth to give generously to a great need in the same way that other churches had done.

在《哥林多後書》第8章中，使徒保羅鼓勵哥林多教會像其他教會一樣去慷慨解囊地滿足巨大的需要。

He doesn't order them to do it though. He shows them how they can do it. He shows them love.

但他並沒有命令他們這樣做。他向他們展示了如何做到這一點。他向他們展示了愛。

He says think about Jesus Christ, *though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

他想著耶穌基督說，*他本是富足，卻為你們成了貧窮，好使你們因他的貧窮而成為富足。*

Jesus is the one friend who emptied himself of everything to turn his enemies into friends.

耶穌是那位倒空了自己的一切，將敵人變成了朋友的朋友。

Jesus is the true steward. As recipients of the ultimate friendship we get to live with him forever in perfect love. Use your money in way that is controlled by that knowledge.

耶穌是真正的管家。作為終極友誼的接受者，我們可以在完美的愛中永遠與他生活在一起。以該知識控制的方式來使用你的錢財。

Right now, today, you and I are in exactly the same boat as the shrewd manager - **the books are still open and we have a chance to act now in view of the future.**

今天，現在，你和我都和這精明的管家處於同一條船上——帳簿仍然是開著的，一切都還沒有結束，我們現在有機會著眼於未來去採取行動。

Make your eternal joy complete and invest in eternal friends.

讓你永恆的喜樂變得圓滿，投資於永恆的友誼。