



# The Hustle Stuff or Stories

#nphustle

Week 4  
4 of 5

March 24, 2019

**Bottom Line:** When I give money away, I win.

**Icebreaker:** Your house is on fire, and everyone is safe. You have 30 seconds to run through the house and collect three or four articles you want to save. What would you grab? Why?

**Key Verse:** *I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.* Luke 16:9

A quick, casual read of Jesus' words might make one think that Jesus is instructing us to be manipulative; to be insincere with our gifts. But when you read the entire story, it becomes clear. He is teaching us that we should use our money as a means to the right end, and that will make us a means to the right end as well. He says if we begin to view all our money, resources, and net worth as tools, we will impact our eternity and the eternity of others as well.

Jesus used the word "shrewd" in describing the way we should be with our finances. Shrewd means smart, strategic, and resourceful. It means we look ahead, plan ahead, and act purposely and timely. Our resources are full of potential to make an eternal difference. As the old adage says, "We can't take it with us," but we can invest whatever our "it" is in a manner that has an eternal impact. We must plan and act purposefully.

Truly wise Christ-followers don't just view a percentage of what they have as God's. They view all of their resources as God's and ask the question, "How can I leverage more of what I have as a means to an end that is not me or my family?" Set a percentage you will give, and then determinedly live on the rest. According to Jesus, money can add meaning to your life when you use it as a means to an end that goes beyond you.

You can pile up stuff, or you can become part of magnificent stories that will be told throughout eternity. What do you want? Stuff, or stories?

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

"Jesus says we should live in the light of eternity. We need to look ahead, plan ahead, and act quickly." How does that speak to you?

"Our resources are intended to make an eternal difference. That's the purpose." Reflect. What do you think your money is doing?

Do you have a "stuff into stories" experience you could share? Stories warm our hearts for a lifetime.

"Money can add meaning to your life when you use it as a means to an end that goes beyond you." Reflect and discuss.

Jesus said, "Inconsistent giving produces inconsistent living. We are being tested as to which kingdom we are most devoted." How do you think you are doing?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

All of us are managers, not owners. That concept changes everything. Jesus says (and He is also speaking specifically financially), "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much. If you are not faithful with little, you won't get true riches." Discuss practical implications.

"If you don't see yourself as a means to an end, your appetite will eat up all of your resources." How have you personally found that to be true?

No one makes inferior choices on purpose. Culture and lack of thought pull us this way. "Live for yourself and you'll only have yourself to show for yourself, along with some stuff for people to fight over when you are gone." Sit a minute with that, and let God speak to you. Then share.

"Until Jesus is first in your finances, Jesus isn't first. You are not a follower; you are a user." Thoughts?

# NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Attend Financial Peace University.
- 2) Begin giving.
- 3) Take the 3-Month Tithe Challenge.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** When I give money away, I win.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Luke 16:13

Tuesday: Matthew 6:33

Wednesday: Luke 14:18

Thursday: Mark 8:34

Friday: Ecclesiastes 5:10

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*