

LUKE 16



In 5 minutes...

WHEN:

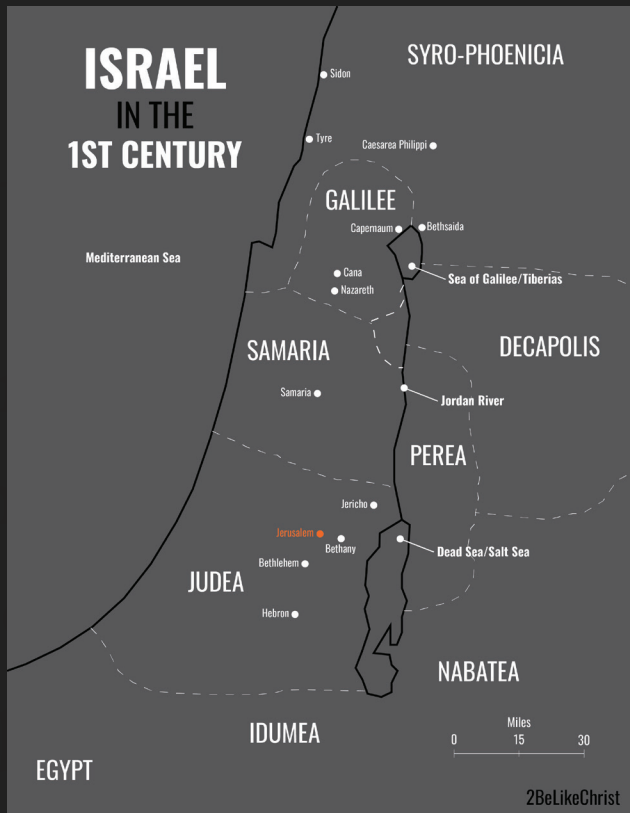
- The events of chapter 16 were part of Jesus' ministry on earth.
- These events took place approximately 30-33 A.D..

CHARACTERS:

- **Jesus** - The Messiah and Son of God.
- **Dishonest Manager** - A property manager who managed his master's money poorly.
- **Rich Man** - A wealthy man who died and went to "Hades" (a place reserved for the wicked).
- **Lazarus** - A poor man who died and was taken by the angels to "Abraham's side" (a place reserved for the righteous).

WHERE:

- Luke does not share the exact location of these events.
- Luke 13:22 reads, "He [Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem."



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OVERVIEW:

- THE PARABLE OF THE DISHONEST MANAGER (16:1-13):
 - + A rich man was planning to fire his manager because of his incompetence.
 - + Before being fired, the manager called all of the rich man's debtors and cut them deals to gain their favor.
 - + He hoped they would be generous to him when they learned of his firing.
 - + Rather than condemning the manager, the rich man commended him on his cleverness.
 - + Jesus used this parable to teach His disciples about resourcefulness, using God's blessings wisely, and the danger of falling in love with earthly wealth.
- THE PROBLEM WITH THE PHARISEES (16:14-17):
 - + The Pharisees loved earthly wealth and were only concerned with looking good in the eyes of men.
 - + They tried to use the Old Testament Law to make themselves look "godly" but they rejected what the Old Testament pointed towards, the Kingdom of God.
 - + Jesus made it clear the Kingdom of God was coming and could not be stopped.
- TEACHING ON DIVORCE (16:18):
 - + In the 1st Century, there was a debate among the Jews about when divorce was permissible.
 - + Jesus told them, "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery."
- THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS (16:19-31):
 - + Jesus told the people a story about two men, one rich (rich man) and one poor (Lazarus).
 - + On earth, the rich man lived in luxury while Lazarus layed in poverty outside the gate of his house.
 - + Eventually, both of them died. Lazarus' soul was taken to Paradise while the rich man's went to Hades.
 - + The rich man wanted Lazarus to ease his pain in torment, but Abraham told him he would not.
 - + The rich man then asked for Lazarus to be sent back to earth to warn his 5 brothers about Hades.
 - + Abraham told him they had "Moses and the Prophets" and that was enough.

BIG PICTURE:

- You may have heard about Paradise and Hades before. Surprisingly, the Bible doesn't have much to say about them.
- This is one of the only passages, if not the only passage, that talks about them in any detail.
- They are pictured here as the waiting place of the soul pre-Judgement Day.

TAKEAWAYS:

- Are we as individuals and local congregations resourceful with the money, talents, and resources God gives us?
- How much time do we spend thinking about effective ways to use our gifts?
- Do we spend more time trying to become resourceful in earthly pursuits or spiritual pursuits?