

THE MASTERY OF THE DETAILS OF LIFE (#1)

[Introduction]

Teleiology is a theology term used to describe the study of spiritual growth maturity in Christian Way of Life.

(Heb.5:14) “But solid food is for the mature (teleios), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Matt.4:4)

We are studying 12 church age doctrines that are essential for spiritual growth maturity. Today we are studying the ninth Teleiology doctrine:

Grace	Positional Truth	Angelic Conflict
Dispensations	Spiritual Gifts	Forgiveness
Spirituality	The Will of God	Transformation
The Faith Cycle	Suffering	Details of Life

This is the final doctrine in this series of lessons.

Reverend Bob Thieme is the only pastor I’ve known that researched and developed a doctrine from this subject. I’ve heard several sermons on the subject in the past, but never a concise study, a doctrine prior to pastor Thieme’s.

Matthew records Jesus teaching on this subject in the Sermon on the Mount:

(Matt.6:24) “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth”. (Matt.5:1-8:1)

I chose Luke’s account of this subject because it was set in a larger content for study (Luke 16:1-14).

A biblical parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Normally a parable has one doctrinal point.

In the parable of our lesson text, I will identify five doctrinal points. This is one thing that makes this parable unique.

Today we will study seven points of Introduction to the Mastery of the Details of Life doctrine.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following six homiletical points. Jesus taught this to His disciples along with some visitors (Lk.16:1, 14).

Parable	(Lk.16:1-8a)	Shrewd business manager [accusation, accounting, actions]
Point one	(Lk.16:8b)	Shrewdness concept
Point two	(Lk.16:9)	Shrewdness with details of life
Point three	(Lk.16:10-12)	Secular verses spiritual attitude regarding details of life
Points four	(Lk.16:13)	Service to God and details of life
Point five	(Lk.16:14)	System of value to details to life

2. The unbeliever or carnal believer both deal with the details of life with a self-centered motive.

The manager, rich man / master and debtors were all categorized as “sons of this age”

(Lk.16:8) “And His master praised the unrighteous steward because he had acted shrewdly (phronimos) [cleverly]; for (hoti) [because] the sons of this age are (eimi / p.a.ind 3pl) more shrewd (phronimoteros) in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.”

The shrewd manager was trying to secure his future security and success and life style by energy of flesh. He was looking out for number one. In order to accomplish this for himself, he had to act as if he was also looking out for others best interest (Lk.16-3-8).

3. Very often the details of life are connected with good deeds, in spite of the selfish motives to acquire and give them (Lk.16:4-8).

Details of life can be legitimate things that a believer is able to accumulate in his life. Such things like possessions, professional success, reputation, wealth, social status, pleasures, loved ones, marital sex, fame and fortune, etc. (Matt.6:19-21; Job 1:1-3; 29:4-25).

Jesus doesn't make an issue of the details of life, but rather the attitudes attach to them:

(1 Tim.6:9-10) “But those who **want to** get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the **love of money** is a root of all sorts of evil, and **some for longing for** it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many grief's.”

4. Sometimes the unbeliever's use of his details of life, for good, gives testimony against the apathetic believer (Lk.16:9; Rom.9:30-33; 10:1-4).

MY POINT: If the unrighteous manager can receive praise for turning an inopportune situation into an opportune one, than how more the “sons of light?”

(Lk.16:8-9) "And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light. (9) And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings”.

5. Details of life can be used in the Plan of God for training in faithfulness (pistos) (Lk.16:10-12).

We must be faithful in those things which God has entrusted to us (2 Tim.1:14). The believer must be careful not to set his mind on earthly things but on God's interest (**Phil.3:19; Col.3:1-2; Matt.16:23**).

6. Details of life were divinely designed to be a source of service to God's grace (Lk.16:13; 1 Tim.6:17-19).

Mammon (mamonas) “A common Aramaic word for riches, akin to a Hebrew word signifying ‘to be firm, steadfast,’ hence, ‘that which is to be trusted.’” (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, pg.388)

Mammon is a detail of life while God is the source, therefore serve God and use mammon wisely in serving you.

7. You can identify worldly view of details of life when people scoff at this doctrine (Lk.16:14).

Lazarus and the rich man are examples of different views on this subject (Lk.16:22-24). They are a reminder that you can't take details of life with you.

It is not wrong to possess certain details of life, but rather it's one's attitude and value of life placed upon them that could be wrong.

(Lk.16:13) “No man can serve two masters (**incapable**); for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other (**inevitable**). You cannot serve God and mammon (**incompatible**).”