

THE MASTERY OF THE DETAILS OF LIFE (#2)
[Introduction Continued]

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

Bob Thieme is the only pastor I knew that developed a doctrine from this subject. I have heard a lot of sermons on the subject but never a doctrine before pastor Thieme.

Matthew records Jesus teaching on this subject in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt.5:1-8:1; **6:24**).

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

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

Today we continue our seven point study of the Introduction to the Details of Life doctrine.

1. Last time we began to examine our lesson text by the following six homiletical points. Jesus taught this parable 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
Point 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 deals with the details of life from a self-centered motive. (Lk.16:3-8).

The manager, rich man / master, debtors, and scoffers were all categorized as “**sons of this age**” (Lk.16:1, 5, and 8)

(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, his success and his life style by the energy of the 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 everyone’s best interest (Lk.16-3-8). Luke used soliloquy technique in this parable.

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, riches, wealth, social status, pleasures, loved ones, marital sex, health, fame and fortune, etc. (Matt.6:19-21; Job 1:1-3; 29:4-25).

Paul 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 griefs."

4. **Sometimes the unbeliever's use of his details of life, for good, gives testimony against the apathetic believer (Lk.16:9, 14) (Rom.9:30-33; 10:1-4).**

POINT: If the unrighteous manager can receive praise for turning an inopportune situation into an opportune, than how more the "**sons of light?**" (Lk.16:8-9)

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

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 or treasure, 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 life's source. Therefore serve God and use mammon wisely in serving you and others.

7. **You can identify the worldly view of the 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 also a reminder that you can't take the details of life with you, when you die! (1 Tim.6:7).

CONCLUSION: It is not wrong to possess certain details of life. Rather it is 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 (**the two are incompatible**)."

(1 Tim.6:6-8) contentment / **autarkeia** / contentment with what you have because God is your source.)