

Message Notes

Serving Two Masters

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - Our trip to Florida

The Gospel of Luke
Today's message
Luke 16:1-15

The "shrewd" manager parable
Luke 16:1-8

A story with many questions:

- Who does the rich man represent? Luke 16:1-2
- Who does the shrewd manager represent? Luke 16:3-4
- How should the manager's behavior be understood? Luke 16:5-7
- How should the rich man's commendation be understood? Luke 16:8

What, ultimately, can be learned from this parable?
Luke 16:9

Serving two masters is impossible
Luke 16:10-13

Jesus addresses the lovers of money in his audience
Luke 16:14-15

A gospel story

What application do these words have for Hope Community?

What application do these words have for your own life?

Luke 16:1-15

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 2 So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

3 "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg—4 I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.' 5 "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 " '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.' 7 "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' " 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.' 8 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? 13 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." 14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.

15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight."









THE WIZARDING
WORLD OF
Harry Potter
AT UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT





The Gospel of
LUKE

Setting His Face to Jerusalem
Luke 9:51 to Luke 19:44

Today's Message:
Serving Two Masters
Luke 16:1-15

Luke 16:1-15

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Luke 16:1-15

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Luke 16:1-15

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Luke 16:1-15

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The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

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“Few passages of Scripture have caused as much confusion as the opening parable.”

The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

“Few passages of Scripture have caused as much confusion as the opening parable.”

“The parable is straightforward.”

The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

Who does the rich man represent?

Luke 16:1-2

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People	The Lost Sheep	The Lost Coin	The Lost Son
Jesus	the shepherd	the woman	the father
Irreligious Sinners	lost sheep	lost coin	the younger son
Pharisees	ninety-nine	the nine	the older son

Kenneth E. Bailey, *The Cross and the Prodigal: Luke 15 through the Eyes of Middle Eastern Peasants*, Second Edition. (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2005), 36.

The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

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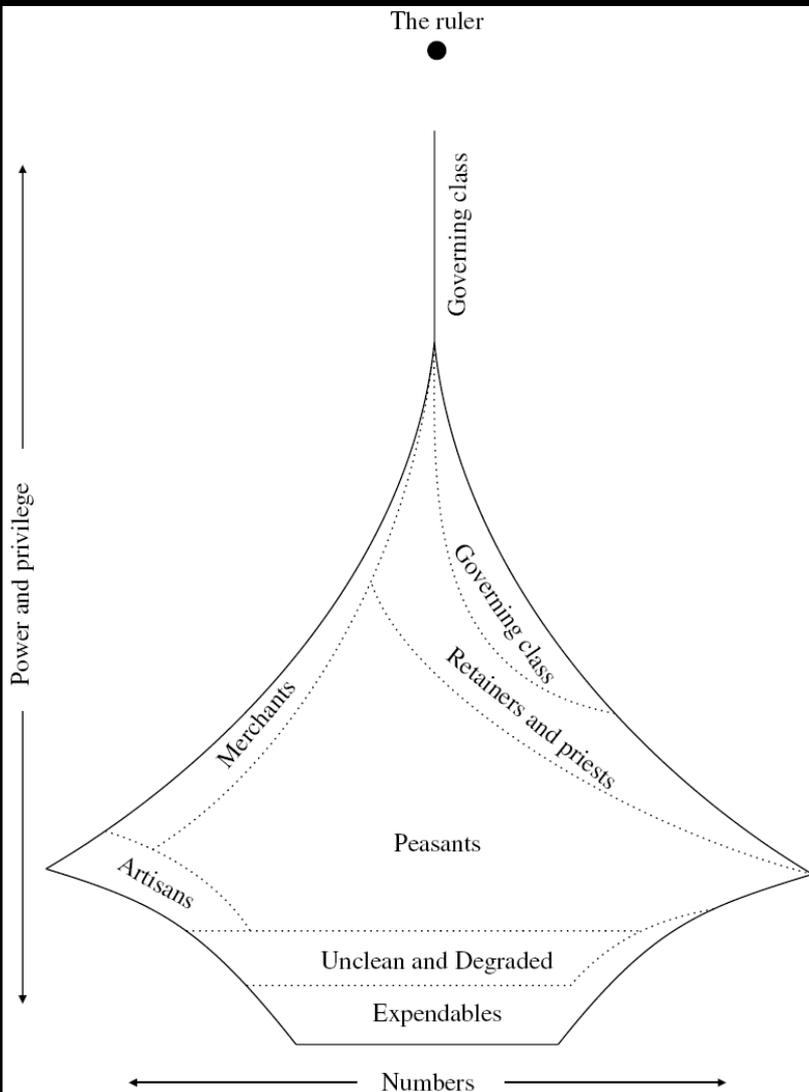
The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

Who does the shrewd manager represent?

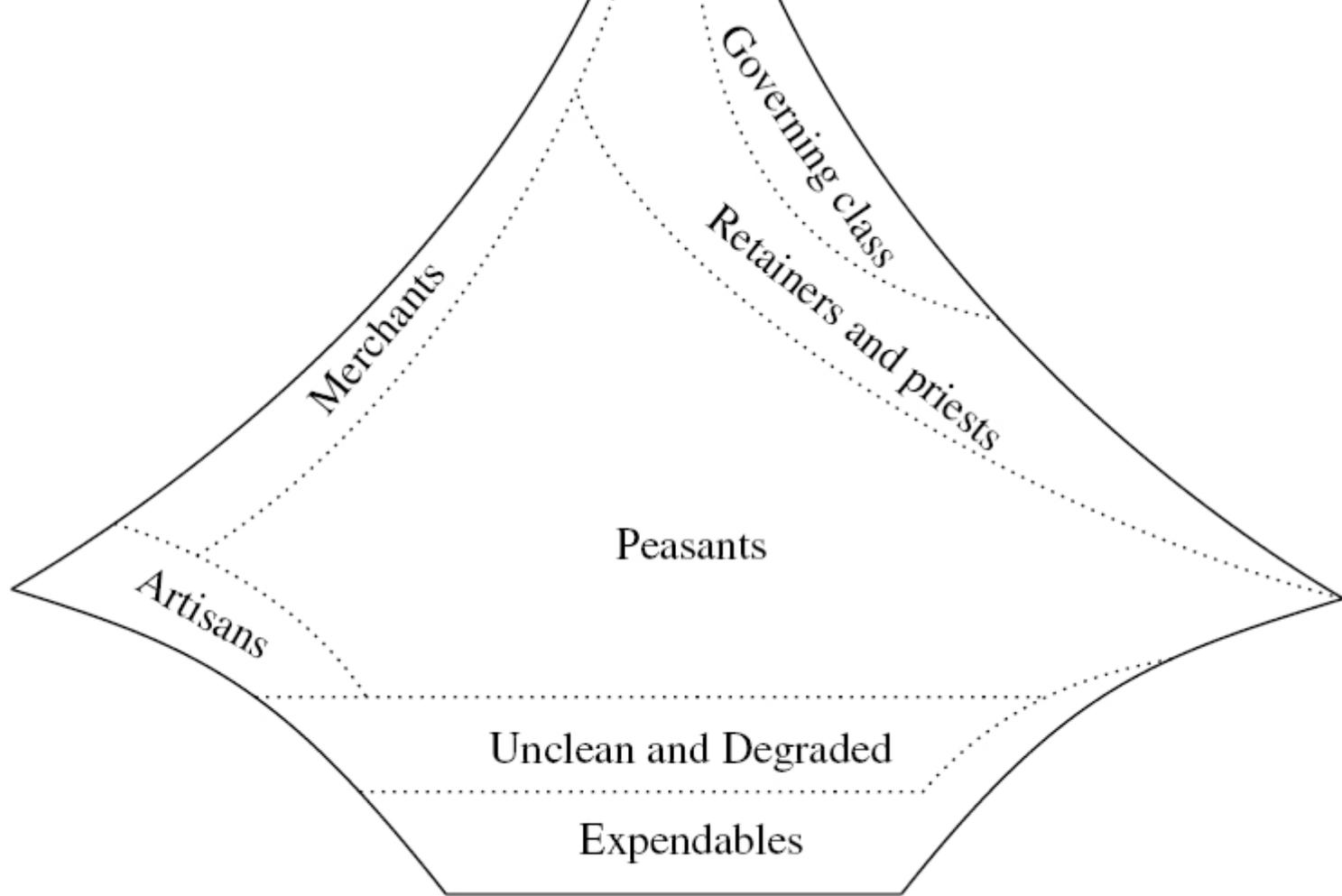
Luke 16:3-4

3 “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg—4 I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’”

The relationship among classes in an agrarian society



Power and priv



Expendables

Unclean and Degraded

Peasants

Artisans

Merchants

Retainers and priests

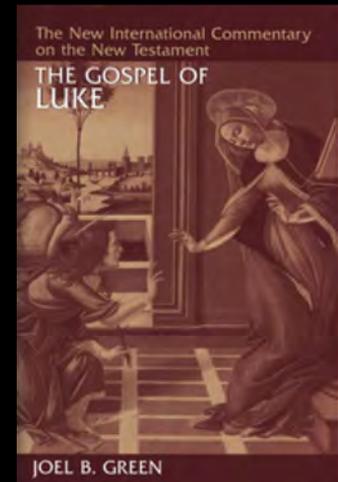
Governing class

Numbers



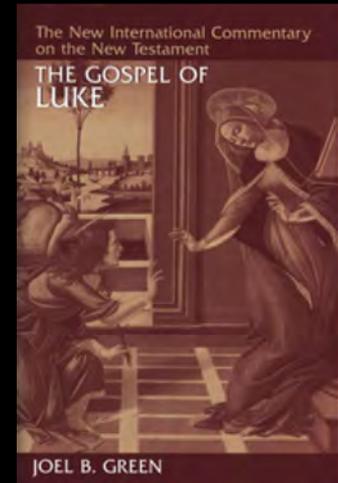
The social setting...in Luke is one in which issues of social status and social stratification are paramount... Luke's social world was defined around power and privilege, and is measured by a complex of phenomena – religious purity, family heritage, land ownership (for nonpriests), vocation, ethnicity, gender, education, and age.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



For the manager, loss of position entails a forfeiture of social status, with the consequence that, initially, the only options he can entertain are manual labor and begging (v 3); these locate him prospectively among the “unclean and degraded” or even “expendable” of society.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary
of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

How should the manager’s behavior be understood?

Luke 16:5-7

5 “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

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“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

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The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

How should the rich man’s commendation be understood?

Luke 16:8

8 “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.

The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

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Thomas L. Williams
CEO Universal Parks
And Resorts

The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

What, ultimately, can be learned from this parable?

Luke 16:9

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

The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

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Literally the “mammon of unrighteousness”

Mammon is an Aramaic term that means money or possessions.

The Parable of the “Shrewd” Manager

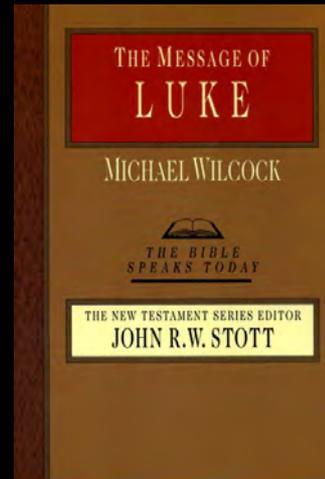
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“Although these things – your property, ability, time – belong to this life only, says Jesus, yet what will happen to you then, when you pass into that life, will depend on what you are doing with them here and now. Make sure that your use of them brings you into a fellowship of friends which will survive beyond death.”

~Michael Wilcock, *The Message of Luke*,
The Bible Speaks Today



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Alternative translation: *they* may receive you into the eternal dwellings

Just who are these “friends” who will receive us into Heaven? Many scholars think this refers to God himself, because Jewish literature often referred to God in the divine plural (“they”) to avoid using the name of God.

~ R. Kent Hughes, Luke: That You May Know the Truth,
Preaching the Word



Serving two masters is impossible

Luke 16:10-13

10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

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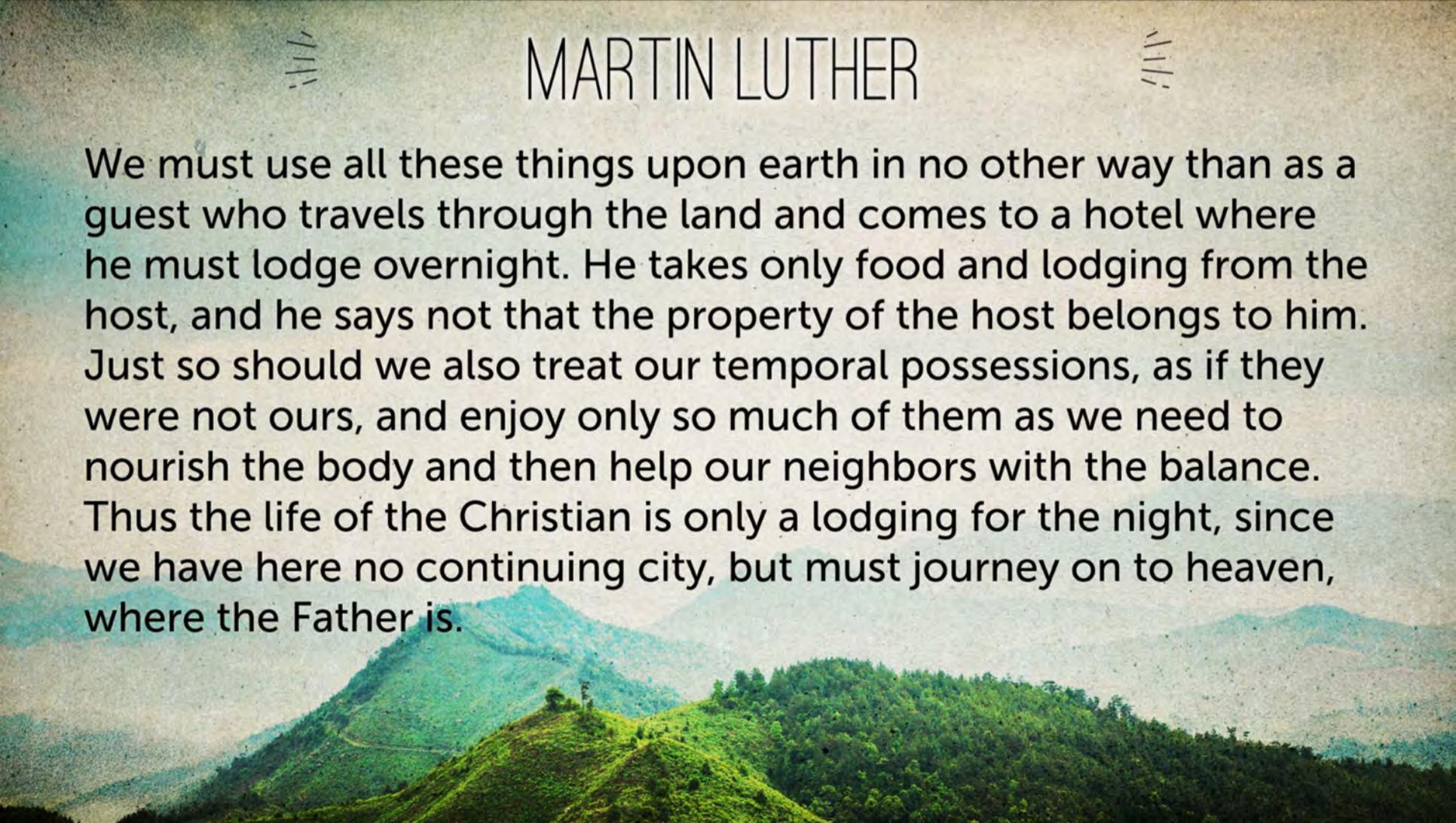
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MARTIN LUTHER



We must use all these things upon earth in no other way than as a guest who travels through the land and comes to a hotel where he must lodge overnight. He takes only food and lodging from the host, and he says not that the property of the host belongs to him. Just so should we also treat our temporal possessions, as if they were not ours, and enjoy only so much of them as we need to nourish the body and then help our neighbors with the balance. Thus the life of the Christian is only a lodging for the night, since we have here no continuing city, but must journey on to heaven, where the Father is.



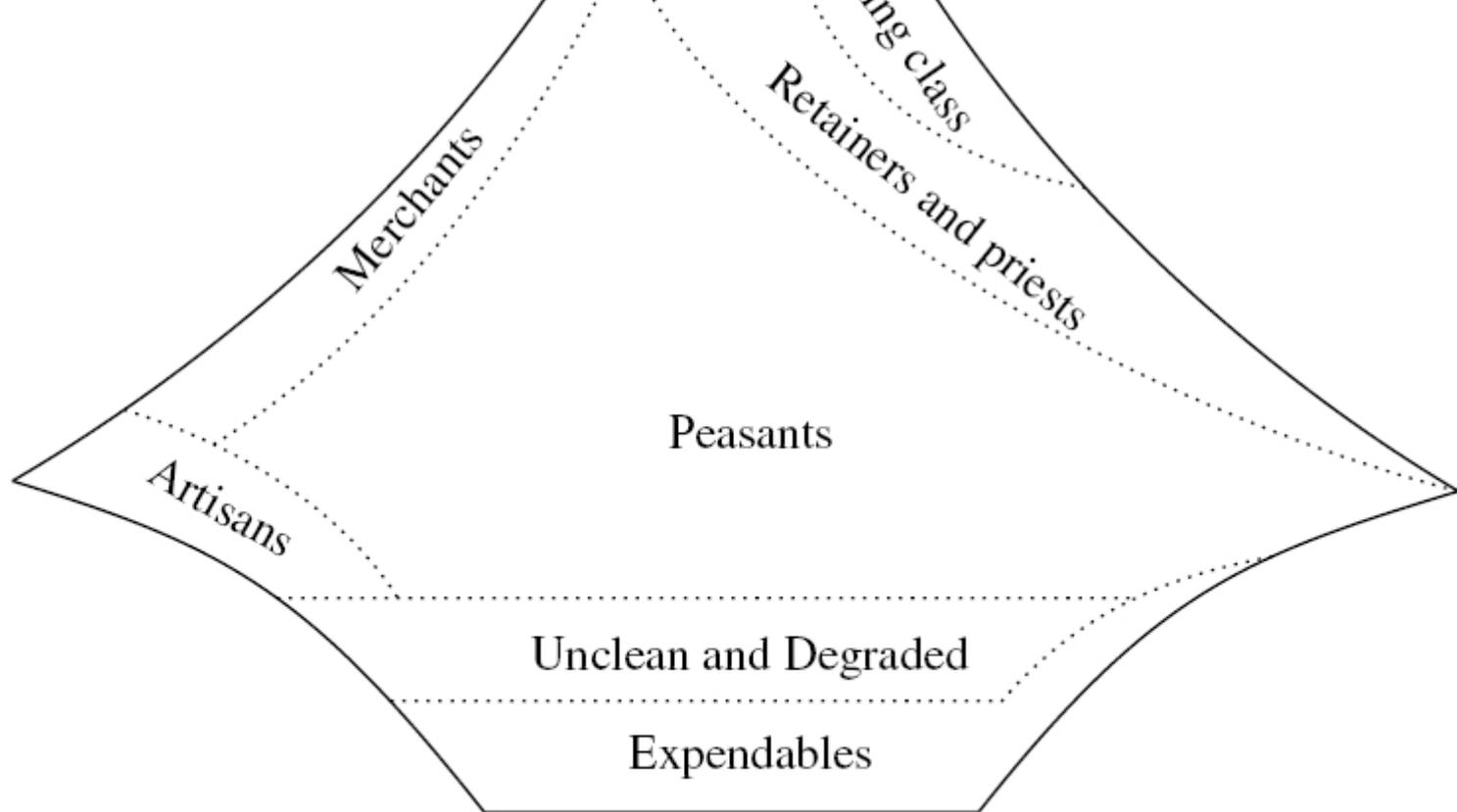
Jesus addresses the lovers of money in his audience

Luke 16:14-15

14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.

15 He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.

Power
↓



ALL BELIEVERS

Cor,

Saw your post on FB about Orlando in February. If you have specific dates I can get you two free nights at the Double Tree at the entrance to Universal.

Let me know if you are interested, happy to to do it.

Merry Christmas!

Gospel Application

What application does this have for Hope Community?

Gospel Application

What application does this have for Hope Community?

What application does this have in your own life?