

---

## **Digging Deeper and Rising Higher . . .**

Where do you remember other examples of people squandering their relationship with God in the Bible? Do you have any personal stories of squandering God?

What obstacles get in your way of loving God with your whole heart?

What small acts of faith can you take that will increase your love for our savior?

---

## **Some thoughts to take with you . . .**

God defines evil this way when he says, "My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water" (Jer.2:13). God pictures himself as a mountain spring of clean, cool, life-giving water. The way to glorify a fountain like this is to enjoy the water, and praise the water, and keep coming back to the water, and point other people to the water, and get strength for love from the water, and never, never, never prefer any drink in the world over this water. That makes the spring look valuable. That is how we glorify God, the fountain of living water.

But in Jeremiah's day people tasted the fountain of God's grace and did not like it. So they gave their energies to finding better water, more satisfying water. Not only did God call this effort futile ("broken cisterns that can hold no water"), but he called it evil: "My people have committed two evils." They put God's perfections to the tongue of their souls and disliked what they tasted; then they turned and craved the suicidal cisterns of the world. That double insult to God is the essence of what evil is.

So preferring the pleasures of money or power or fame or sex over the "pleasures...at [God's] right hand" (Ps. 16:11) is not like preferring caramel to hot fudge. It is a great evil. Indeed it is the ultimate meaning of evil. Esteeming God less than anything is the essence of evil.

John Piper

To be without Jesus is the pain of hell. And to be with Him is a pleasant paradise. If Jesus is with you no enemy can grieve you. He who finds Jesus finds a treasure, better than all other treasures, and he who loses Him has lost more than all the world. He is most poor who lives without Jesus, and he is most rich who is with Him.

Thomas a'Kempis

---

## ***Living Beyond Ourselves*** **Squandering God** Luke 16:1-13

**Introduction:** Jesus warns us not to squander his gracious presence by valuing his good gifts more than we value being with him. He tells this shocking parable of the unrighteous manager to call us to act faithfully to him in the way we use the wealth he gave us. What if we were better stewards? What if we lived beyond ourselves? What if we refused to squander God?

### **A note to non-prodigious Christians.**

1a

### **Squandering God by staying home.**

1b-8a

The master

2

The manager

3-7

The master

8a

The Savior

8b

### **Squandering Jesus by loving the world.**

9-13

The disciples

9

The faithful steward

10-12

The house servant

13

### **Applying God's Truth to Our Lives ...**

***Living Beyond Ourselves***  
**Squandering God**  
Luke 16:1-13

**Introduction:** Jesus warns us not to squander his gracious presence by valuing his good gifts more than we value being with him. He tells this shocking parable of the unrighteous manager to call us to act faithfully to him in the way we use the wealth he gave us. What if we were better stewards? What if we lived beyond ourselves? What if we refused to squander God?

**A note to non-prodigal Christians.** 1a

**Squandering God by staying home.** 1b-8a

The master 2

The manager 3-7

The master 8a

The Savior 8b

**Squandering Jesus by loving the world.** 9-13

The disciples 9

The faithful steward 10-12

The house servant 13

**Applying God's Truth to Our Lives ...**

# KIDS NOTES

## Squandering God

### The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *Jesus was speaking to whom in this parable?*

- A. Pharisees.
- B. sinners and tax collectors.
- C. his disciples.
- D. all of the above.

2. *The manager wasted his masters:*

- A. goldfish
- B. money
- C. reputation
- D. none of the above.

3. *Jesus is a treasure better than:*

- A. chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream.
- B. Sony PS3.
- C. all other treasures.
- D. all of the above.

**For Family Discussion:** How can we as a family learn to make Jesus a more important part of our lives every day?

### Space to Doodle

### Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

JESUS _____	TOTAL: _____
DISCIPLES _____	_____
SQAUNDERING _____	_____
STEWARD _____	_____
PARABLE _____	_____
CHRIST _____	_____

### Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES JESUS DISCIPLES PARABLE MASTER  
MANAGER SQUANDER WEALTH RICHES FAITHFUL UNRIGHTEOUS  
SHREWD

```

M G U J J J X Z Z J B U Y R L M B
D D O N E P L Y V Z L E C U X V W
I E C R S Y R Y I S U I Y O C Z P
S R P A U O S Y L O F F S O A H B
C E D S S O T N S S H T U S N E N
I T B Q S U S B X H T B O E R D M
P S J U H R U A P R I H E H J Z L
L A T A T S E P R E A J T C E V F
E M N N L E X G F W F V H I L N F
S V U D A L R N A D I O G R B W P
M U I E E V E I H N N O I G A G P
O Y Z R W E K V M Y A G R M R K X
K Z Z Y B S K I C G V M N Z A J K
A D N P Q U F L K I H J U P P O Z
Y W C N Q P P X N W Z R V W D O I
    
```