

Parables of Jesus part 16

Various Scriptures

“The master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the children of this age are more shrewd than the children of light in dealing with their own people.” -Luke 16:8

Do you think it’s right for God use the actions of a criminals, murders, and thieves to make a point for Christians understand? Why or why not?

Parable of the Dishonest Manager: Luke 16:1-8

Context: Jesus has been talking with the religious leaders, Scribes and Pharisees. Their complaint against him was that “he welcomes sinners and eats with them.” In response he spoke 3 parables to illustrate a point of how God’s people are to seek those who are lost in this world. In contrast to chapter 15 Luke begins chapter 16 reflecting on how Jesus includes his disciples in on another parable about how we manage the resources God has given us for His glory.

What does the Bible tell us about the world we live in?

Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17

The Manager’s Problems: Luke 16:1-2

#1 There was a rich man who received an _____ that his manager was squandering his possessions. His master heard an unfavorable report.

What is a manager/steward?

A man who has _____ of another man’s goods.

Abraham’s steward: Genesis 24:2

David’s steward: 1 Chronicles 28:1

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 4:2 that managers are to be _____. However the manger in Jesus parable was unjust.

#2 So he called the manager in and asked him to “Give an _____ of your management, because you can no longer be my manager.” In other words, because of the manager’s unfavorable report his master fired him.

These are words that everyone, both sinner and saint will hear. Charles Spurgeon once said, "each of us will have to give account of our stewardship regarding our _____, talents, our substance, and our _____." If Jesus does not come first, we all will die and pass from this life to the next.

In light of this reality what is one thing you can do to be prepared to give an account of your life?

The Manager's Plan: Luke 16:3-7

*As he reasoned within himself he thought about his future and came to the realization he wasn't strong enough to do _____ labor and his _____ would not allow him to beg.

So what did he do? What is the first commandment of the world?

"Self-_____ " Verse 4

Interesting note: in the world every man is considered innocent until he is proven guilty. The word of God takes the opposite approach. God says that man is considered guilty until he is proven innocent.

Romans 3:23; Romans 8:1

The dishonest, unjust manager was living by the world's system. He did not repent, he had no regrets or remorse for his actions. He was ashamed to beg but not ashamed to steal!

What did he do? One by one he went to all of his masters debtors and settled their accounts. Luke 16:5-7

100 measures of olive oil, he settled for _____

100 measures of wheat, he settled for _____

In other words, the manager made friends with his master's debtors by settling their accounts for less than they actually owed. By doing this he used his present position to prepare him for the next stage of his life.

The Master's Praise: Luke 16:8

His master praised the unrighteous manager, not because he stole from him but because he was shrewd.

What does it mean to be shrewd?

Most people associate shrewd with negative things like being selfish, stingy, greedy, or hard hearted. When actually it means to be _____, witted, or discerning in practical affairs. Another word for shrewd is "Common _____"

Is Jesus praising dishonesty? Explain.

Jesus is saying even the unjust stewards of the world know that money is a tool and not an end itself. Why can't people of faith, "Children of light" understand this truth.

Matthew 10:16

Principle of the Dishonest Manager: Luke 16:9-13

#1 Be forward thinkers: verse 9

Use your earthly resources wisely and generously for kingdom purposes. When we do this lives will be changed and souls will be saved by having access to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Why is it so difficult to keep a proper perspective on money?

Matthew 6:19-21

#2 Be faithful: verses 10-13

Whatever God provides you with be it small or insignificant, use it for the glory of God. (10-12)

Survey taken in 1992 people were asked how much money they would have to make in order to experience the "American Dream." Those who earned around \$25,000 said, \$54,000. Those who made \$100,000 said \$192,000. These figures indicate that we typically think we must _____ our income in order to find the good life, instead of experiencing it where we are.

We must also be faithful to God alone. (13) We can have both God and money, but we cannot serve both God and money.

How can we tell who or what we serve?

When God is served money is used beneficently. When money is served, the claims of God are ignored.

Could there be some way that God want you to change the way you handle your resources? What resources do you have that you can use to help people in need?

What is one thing you learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

**“May we be consumed with the creator of all things rather
than with things created.”**