

## "Shrewd"

Opening Announcements

Opening Prayer

Q: When you think of the word "shrewd", what comes to mind?

Q: Is being "shrewd" a positive thing or a negative? Discuss....

**READ: Luke 16:1-9** "He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup> And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' <sup>3</sup> And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' <sup>8</sup> The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings."

Q: What is THIS about? What is interesting about the way Jesus is teaching here?

Q: According to verse 8, the Master commends his manager for his shrewdness. Why?

Q: What do you think would have happened if the manager would have been shrewd towards the Master instead of dishonest?

Q: What does this tell us about the importance of how we see, "manage", OUR life?

Q: What's the admonition/lesson of Jesus in verse 9?

Q: What does this tell us about earthly wealth?

Q: How are we to see/understand it? How are we to use it? Why?

To help us understand this, Jesus goes on to say.....

**READ: Luke 16:10-13** "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. <sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? <sup>13</sup> No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Q: In this context, what is the "little" Jesus is using as an example in verse 10?

Q: What's the principle here?

Q: In verse 11, Jesus refers to "true riches", what is He referring to?

Q: According to verse 12, Jesus mentions "that which is another's", what's He talking about?

Q: In verse 13, Jesus starts to get REAL specific! What does this talk about two "masters" mean?

Q: According to Jesus, what is inevitable about us?

Q: Why is what Jesus saying here so very, cut and dry....in some ways radical?

Q: What is it about "us" that wants "our cake and eat it too?"

Q: Why does this NOT work?

**READ: Luke 16:14-15** "The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

Q: What was the response of the Pharisees to Jesus' teaching?

Q: Why do you think they did this?

Q: According to verse 15, what does God know and why is this important?