

Be Smart!

5-12-19

Luke 16:1–8 (ESV)

¹ 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.** ² 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.’ ³ 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. ⁴ **I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.**’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He said, ‘A **hundred** measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write **fifty.**’ ⁷ 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.**’ ⁸ *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.**

This is Notoriously Difficult to interpret! To understand this message, we must grasp the Main point and not over analyze the details. **Such as “Knock me over with a feather!” We immediately grasp the main point, but we would be totally confused trying to examine all the literal details.**

Similarly we have studied other exaggerated statements in Luke that drive home main points.

Luke 12:33 (ESV)

Sell your possessions, and give to the needy.

Meaning Be Smart; get rid of anything that interferes with our relationship with Jesus!

--OR--

Luke 14:33 (ESV)

So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Meaning Be Smart; do not be emotionally attached to anything of this world.

This section also has a main point, “Be Smart with the use of God’s possessions!” Jesus is not commending dishonesty but encouraging the “prudent use of material wealth”! The implication is that the dishonest manager is praiseworthy because of the shrewd steps taken to “guarantee” his future. Jesus is stating that people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than Christians. Therefore, Christians can learn something about the prudent use of earthly wealth to “guarantee” their future heavenly rewards. The message is not about dishonesty but prudence.

After giving such an outlandish example to drive home HIS point, Jesus now gives us powerful lessons or more like “Wham” wake up calls about our current situation and our eternal situation!

Wham #1 Be Smart!

Luke 16:9 (ESV)

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**.

Jesus’ disciples are directed to use worldly wealth to gain friends for themselves. Jesus is not urging his disciples to be dishonest, but to make good use of God’s resources. **#1 Jesus is urging us to use worldly resources to sustain HIS people and advance the Christian mission. #2 By using the resources of this world wisely, Christians can be assured that they will be eternally rewarded.**

The amount of wealth one has here on earth is not the determining factor; **the measurement is faithfulness.**

Wham #2 Be Smart!

Luke 16:10 (ESV)

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.

Jesus tells us that our faithfulness with worldly wealth exposes our heart by which God will reward us eternally. This has nothing to do with our free gift of salvation, but it does impact rewards we receive in heaven.

Wham #3 Be Smart!

Luke 16:11 (ESV)

If then you have not been faithful in the **unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the **true riches**?**

If we are “not” faithful with God’s earthly unrighteous possessions, HE will “not” multiply to us HIS true riches, here or in heaven. **We need to take care of our rented house:**

Wham #4 Be Smart!

Luke 16:12 (ESV)

And if you have not been faithful in that which is **another’s, who will give you that which is **your own**?**

Our faithfulness with God’s worldly possessions determines how much God can trust us with HIS eternal possessions. Now Jesus drives home the main point of the whole section in one verse!

Wham #5 Be Smart!

Luke 16:13 (ESV)

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.**

Summary:

Do we have an eternal view? Do we love God enough to use our resources to advance the Christian mission? Wealth is not the **issue; the **issue** is who we serve! This is not a “rule” **issue** or a “commandment” **issue**; it is a “love” **issue**.**

This is why when Jesus was asked, what was the greatest commandment, HE said,

Matthew 22:37–40 (ESV)

- **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**
- **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**
- **On these two commandments “hang” all the Law and the Prophets.**

This whole section is not about possessions. This whole section is about who do we love. God loves us and HE wants us to love HIM back and use our resources for HIS kingdom!

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.