



to
seek and
to **save**



The Parable of the
Dishonest/Shrewd Manager

Luke 16:1-13

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“I am convinced this parable continues to discuss theological themes that appear in the parable of the prodigal son. **The subject is God, sin, grace, and salvation** -- not honesty in dealing with money.”

-Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, Kenneth Bailey

Luke 16:1-13

“Now he said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who received an accusation that his manager was squandering his possessions.’”

-Luke 16:1

So he called the manager in and asked,
'What is this I hear about you? Give an
account of your management, because
you can no longer be my manager.'

-Luke 16:2

“Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do since my master is taking the management away from me? I’m not strong enough to dig; I’m ashamed to beg. I know what I’ll do so that when I’m removed from management, people will welcome me into their homes.’

-Luke 16:3-4

“So he summoned each one of his master’s debtors. ‘How much do you owe my master?’ he asked the first one. “‘A hundred measures of olive oil,’ he said. “‘Take your invoice,’ he told him, ‘sit down quickly, and write fifty.’ 7 “Next he asked another, ‘How much do you owe?’ “‘A hundred measures of wheat,’ he said. “‘Take your invoice,’ he told him, ‘and write eighty.’

-Luke 16:5-7

“Word spreads in the village and a festive mood breaks out in celebration of the most generous man who ever rented land in the history of the village and in praise of his steward who convinced the master to make huge reductions in their rents.”

-Kenneth Bailey

“The master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly.

-Luke 16:8a

For the children of this age are more shrewd than the children of light in dealing with their own people.

-Luke 16:8b

Parables are a way Jesus communicates something about who God is, who we are, and how we relate to God.

Our Master is
gracious.

“The Lord—the Lord is a **compassionate and gracious God**, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin.”

-Exodus 34:6-7

We must not
take advantage.

“What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?”

-Romans 6:1-2

There is a difference
between being wise
and being shrewd.

“I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

-Matthew 12:36-37

Sin is a
slippery slope.

“No one undergoing a trial should say, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn’t tempt anyone. But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. **Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.**”

-James 1:13-15

“It is not uncommon to see on our church windows portrayals of a father receiving a son who has strayed or of a sower spreading seed, or of a Samaritan helping the man by the roadside. But I have never seen a window depicting a man with a sly look, saying to another, ‘Falsify the bill, make it less than it really is.’”

-Justo Gonzalez

Our Lord is
generous.

“See what great **love the Father has lavished on us**, that we should be called God’s children—and we are!”

-1 John 3:1

Take risk!

“And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness...and when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God boldly.”

-Acts 4:29-31, CSB

The steward is not praised for his ethics but for his accurate perception of his master's nature.

God is ridiculously generous.
We can't keep that to ourselves!

Because our King is
generous, we should be too.

“And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of worldly wealth so that when it fails, they may welcome you into eternal dwellings. Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much. So if you have not been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with what is genuine? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you what is your own? No servant can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

-Luke 16:9-13

Our money is not ours.
We are stewards.

“Grace is unconditional acceptance given to an undeserving person by an unobligated giver.”

*-Charis: God's Scandalous Grace for Us,
Preston Sprinkle*

“So, since we’re out from under the old tyranny, does that mean we can live any old way we want? Since we’re free in the freedom of God, can we do anything that comes to mind? Hardly. You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom. Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it’s your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits.

All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. But thank God you've started listening to a new master, one whose commands set you free to live openly in his freedom! Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death. But **God's gift is real life, eternal life, delivered by Jesus, our Master."**

-Romans 6:15-17, 23, *The Message*