

Luke 16.1-18

Shrewd Manager

2000+ Bible @ MONEY > Jesus talks about Money Often

1 & 19 “There was a rich man”: 1st \$ help Heaven / 2nd \$ lead to Hell

Cannot PREDICT the Future > Can PREPARE FOR the Future

1. The Clever Servant

a. Task v. 1 "a rich man who had a manager"

Manager > Financial Controller (PLANNER), STOCK BROKER

MAKE MONEY ON SOMEONE ELSE'S MONEY

b. Termination >> FIRED – Spoil his REPUTATION & FUTURE

vs. 1-3 ... charges... this man wasting his possessions... Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ ...

Today > Fired Many Places > Security Escort OUT of Bldg Immediately

What to Do? CHEAT! Reduce Charges of Debtors

c. Treachery vs. 4-7 I decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses... ‘How much do you owe my master?’... ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’

v. 8 “The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness.

EXPECT? Arrest? Repay? Cheated praises Cheater! Commends Shrewd

TOUCHE! Oceans 11 > Amazing how Thieves Outsmarted System

Plan NOT Honest but it was BRILLIANT > SHREWD Self Preservation

Applauding his CLEVERNESS, but NOT his CONDUCT

Not Praising INTEGRITY but his INGENUITY

WHY?? 1) Hard Times (drought, poor harvests) LOWER RENTS / FEES

2) CUT Interest Charges - OT FORBADE TO FELLOW JEWS

done by Manager / Sometimes without owners knowledge

Jesus CALLS him a DISHONEST Manager > HUGE Accounts!

v. 8 For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light”

> How CLEVER Worldly People are when they Act in own Best Interests

Xians ARE often more NAÏVE – Fall Behind in this Dog Eat Dog World

Because FOCUS on ANOTHER World > Everlasting, Eternal, Righteous

POINT? Cheat? Steal? Be SHREWD! Prepare! Fired JOB of this LIFE!

Decision > Determine Rest of Life // Hang Loose, Relax, No Worries

FROM THIS STORY JESUS TELLS ABOUT 2 KINDS OF PEOPLE -

v. 13 “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.”

2. Servants of God

vs. 1 He also said to the disciples >> Story CONTINUES from Ch 15....

STARK CONTRASTS // INCOMPATIBLE

a. Investments v. 9 make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into eternal dwellings

USE your \$ to SUPPORT the GOSPEL, GET OTHERS TO HEAVEN

When U get there You'll be WELCOMED BY THOSE YOU HELPED

“FRIENDS?” Father, Son, Holy Spirit? People who've Come to JESUS

“Why did the Lord Jesus Christ present this parable to us? Surely he did not approve the cheating...It was not because the servant cheated but because he exercised foresight for the future...He was insuring himself for a life that was going to end...Would you not insure yourself for eternal life?”
Augustine

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."
Luke 12.15

USA Xtians – Richest Ever in History! – How much do we GIVE? 4%!

How does your Spending Reflect you Love for Christ & Kingdom?

Invest \$ in Kingdom?! FRIENDS?? People we helped in Need!

Emergency Relief / Heard Gospel / Read Bible / Convert in Church

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 4.18

You CanNOT TAKE your \$ w YOU, But Can SEND IT Ahead

If when the accounts are rendered and it becomes known in heaven that it was your sacrificial giving that provided copies of the Gospel of John which led a whole tribe out of paganism to faith in Christ, will not that whole tribe show towards you an eternal gratitude?

David Gooding

Micro-Loans to Xtians in Needy Countries

Crisis Pregnancy Centers to Save Babies from Abortion

Helping Children learn God's Purpose in making them Boys and Girls

Impact of Money for True Needs > Have an Eternal Impact!

b. Consistent v. 10 "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"

NOT WILL BE - CAN BE // NOT Prediction – Statement of FACT

Matter of Character - Trustworthy or DISHONEST - BIG or SMALL

John Wooden was BASKET BALL Coach and a Follower of JESUS

Led UCLA – 10 National Championships

1st Practice of Every Season – Taught Players how to Put on their Socks

2 Pairs – w Creases Aligned with their Toes – So NOT get BLISTERS

Lots of LITTLE Things are what MAKES BIG Things

Only God can CHANGE HUMAN Character - NEW BIRTH IN CHRIST

good deeds are obvious... cannot be hidden

1 Timothy 5.25

Method of CHURCH GROWTH - CONSISTENT (Reliable) PEOPLE

"Secretariat" won KENTUCKY DERBY > 'Greatest Horse Ever'

"each successive 1/4 mile of race was run faster than one before"

LONGER RACE WENT, THE FASTER THE HORSE RAN.

c. Trustworthy v. 11,12 If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

WHAT KIND OF MANAGER ARE YOU? AM I?

Worldly wealth = Someone's Property? / True Riches = Own Property

Not Saved by Use of Money > Use of Money shows ARE SAVED

Not Staying Here > Going Somewhere > Money HELP Others Get There!

MEANING - YOUR WORLDLY WEALTH BELONGS TO GOD

Contra "my house, my car, my bank account, my net worth"

We are GONE WE LEAVE it ALL BEHIND - NO U-HAUL on HEARSE

What WE POSSES in LIFE is "ON LOAN" / We are All MANAGERS

R U TRUSTWORTHY IN WORLDLY "LOANS" (WEALTH)

If Not, How CAN U be Trusted w ETERNAL RICHES from GOD??

We must use all these things upon earth in no other way than as a guest who travels through the land and comes to a hotel...He takes only food and lodging from the host, and he says not that the property of the host belongs to him. Just so should we also treat our temporal possessions, as if they were not ours, and enjoy only so much of them as we need to nourish the body and then help our neighbors with the balance. Martin Luther

v. 16 Law & Prophets – Pharisees not see Jesus as Messiah

New Covenant, Kingdom Come in King > Reject John/ Prepare Way

d. Forceful v. 16 everyone forces his way into it

WHAT FORCEFUL PEOPLE LIKE?? DESCRIBED BY JESUS

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. Luke 6.27-31

Takes Great STRENGTH, Great COMMITMENT, Great FORCE

“Everyone Forcing In” All Saints @ Uganda! / Beijing Subway Rushhour

If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.
Matthew 5.29

Lord Joseph Duveen - American head of prestigious Art Firm

1915 planned to send expert employee - Examine ANCIENT POTTERY

TO ENGLAND - BOOKED PASSAGE ON GREAT SHIP LUSITANIA

German Navy SUBS gaining Unseen CONTROL ATLANTIC OCEAN

THREATENED TO SINK ANY SHIP THAT SAILED ATLANTIC

Duveen told employee not to go "I can't take risk of your death"

"Don't worry I am a strong swimmer, and when I read what was happening in the Atlantic, I began hardening myself by spending time every day in a tub of ice water. At first I could sit only a few minutes, but this morning I stayed in that tub nearly 2 hours

Duveen LAUGHED - IT SOUNDED PREPOSTEROUS - MAN SAILED
LUSITANIA Torpedoed & SANK / 5 hrs Later Employee Rescued Atlantic

3. Servants of Money

v. 14 Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him >
SNEERED!

Target of Jesus' Message > Pharisees > Powerless in Religious RITUALS

OUTWARD Show // INWARD Shame

Jesus still SPEAKING – by Holy Spirit – At Us Pharisees HERE

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." Luke 15.1,2

PHARISEES – Muttering >> Challenged in their LOVES

DON'T Love PEOPLE, DO Love MONEY

IRONY – Lovers of Money = RELIGIOUS LEADERS // TODAY

MONEY ITSELF NOT ROOT OF ALL EVIL - "the LOVE of Money"

Servants of God - USE MONEY FOR GOD

Servants of Money - USE GOD FOR MONEY

"SAME SNEERS" by Religious Leaders today to those who are serious

a. Self Justified v. 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.

EX. Not HAVE to be that GOOD IT IS ONLY FOR THE CHURCH

British M Colleague Uganda Received BOX OF "USED TEA BAGS"

God Not NEED DECADENCE OR EXTRAVAGANCE - BUT BEST

MONEY "WASTED" FOR Perfume to WASH JESUS // Judas thought

Cure SELF JUSTIFICATION - JUSTIFICATION by FAITH in JESUS X

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood...to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3.25

Nothing we Offer God is Holy, Acceptable, Worthy of Merit or MERCY

b. Self Deceived v. 15 “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.

We’re TOLERANT of MONEY Sins --- Not as Bad as those OTHER Sins
Jesus > Deeply Spiritual Problem – You are MISSING Salvation by Grace
Worried more IMAGE & STATUS than HUMILITY & REPENTANCE

IMPORTANT Question NOT what PEOPLE think of Us, but GOD!

Things we ACCEPT or APPROVE – God calls them ABOMINATION!!

v. 15 God knows Hearts > We can Fool People, Not God

See things as Good > Abomination or Exalted – Justify Themselves \$\$

DO U THINK RELIGIOUS LEADERS that THEY WERE WRONG??

OF COURSE NOT!! "WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE IT THIS WAY"

PROMINENT, WEALTHY Woman - HIRED AUTHOR WRITE BIO

SHOCKED - Grandfather a Murder > Electric Chair in NY State Prison

BEGGED THE AUTHOR TO FIND A WAY OF HIDING TRUTH

"One of her grandfathers occupied the chair of applied electricity in one of America's best-known institutions. He was very much attached to his position and literally died in the harness."

Cure SELF DECEPTION > TRUTH as it REVEALED in JESUS Christ

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Romans 12.2

At the center of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you...Yet along comes this idea of Grace to upend all that...Love interrupts...the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I’ve done lots of stupid stuff...It doesn’t excuse my mistakes, but I’m holding out for Grace. I’m holding out that Jesus took my sins on the Cross, because I know who I am, and I hope I don’t have to depend on my own religiosity.
Bono

c. Self Ruled vs. 17 But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

OT - LAW OF GOD // NT - THE RULE OF GOD IN THE KINGDOM

Jesus came UPHOLD Law of God > @ Pomaikai about 10 commands

v. 18 Divorce – Law Permanent – Adultery Wrong – Marriage Permanent
Marriage when Ready? Prepare: Wrong > Help thru Life – Marriage
Seminary Prez @ Graduation > Future Pastors “Gentlemen pay UR bills!”
Of Course should Preach Gospel, Plant Church > Person of INTEGRITY!

Pharisees REJECT BOTH LAW OF MOSES & KINGDOM OF CHRIST

"We will not have this man to rule over us"

If U TRY to RUN YOUR LIFE, U’R BOUND to MAKE a MESS of It
Run CAR & Ignoring OWNERS MANUAL // NEED REPAIR MANUAL

All Sinned – Jesus came for Greedy, Divorced, Law Breakers
Love of Father: Prodigal Not Bad: Excessive, Over the Top, Unreasonable
Not Saved by Use of Money > Use of Money shows ARE SAVED
Not Staying Here > Going Somewhere > Money HELP Others Get There!
CURE SELF RULE - THE RULE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
Jesus: "If you love me, you will obey what I command" John 14.15