

THE PARABLE OF THE SHREWD MANAGER LUKE 16:1-15

Introduction: A young man is finishing up his junior year in high school. As the third quarter comes to an end he has a solid four point GPA. His high school counselor tells him, "Mark, you have the whole world in front of you. It's time to start filling out applications for some colleges you'd like to attend. All you have to do is decide what you want to be."

1. What are some things this young man might consider before he decides on a profession?
2. Would the parable of the shrewd manager be a good parable to share with young people who are deciding on a profession? Let's consider LK 16:1-9... Who else might this parable be good for?

The Context of the Parable...

3. Consider the context. To whom is the parable directed (Verse 1)? Who also heard this parable (Verse 14)? Did Jesus have two reasons for telling this parable?

* Verses 6-7: Eight hundred gallons is the product of about 450 olive trees. He cuts his debt by 50%. 1,000 bushels is the product of 100 acres. He cuts this debt by 20%. The point is that the two debtors were greatly helped and would be appreciative.

The Parable Itself...

4. Some people might have difficulty with Jesus' holding up a dishonest manager as an example. How might you answer a person who has such a concern?
5. What's the main point of this parable?

Parable Itself Continued...

6. The other difficult thing in this parable is verse 8b. Explain how it is true that the people of this world are wiser in using their resources to accomplish their own goals than believers are in using their resources to accomplish God's goals.

Luke 16:10-15 Concluding Remarks...

7. In verses 10-12 Jesus draws some conclusions from the main point. Who are those trusted with little? Who are those dishonest with little?

8. If you owned a business, how long would you tolerate someone stealing from you? The Father has put us in charge of his "business." If we aren't stealing from him (serving Money over God), we will know the four ways in which he desires us to use the money he has given us. What are they?

1st Use of our money is Proverbs 3:9 –

Another use of our money is Romans 13:7-8 –

Another use of our money is 1 Timothy 5:8 –

Another use of our money is Proverbs 19:17 –

9. How do we give to the Lord? How does giving to the Lord tie in with gathering friends for "eternal dwellings?"

10. What's the difference between giving to church and giving to God?

11. What's our motivation for giving in the four areas?

2 Corinthians 8:9 –

12. It has been estimated that there are over 1,000 references to money in the Bible, and all Christians would agree that the Lord is the Lord of all we have, including our money. Why then is money such a difficult subject to speak about in church