

The Dishonest Manager

Final in series on
Parables



1. Be Intentional

Luke 16:1-8 (TPT) *Jesus taught his disciples using this story:*

Once a very rich man hired a manager to run his business and oversee all his wealth. But soon a rumour spread that the manager was wasting his master's money.

So the master called him in and said, "Is it true that you are mismanaging my estate? You need to provide me with a complete audit of everything you oversee for me. I've decided to dismiss you."

The manager thought, "Now what am I going to do? I'm finished here. I can't hide what I've done, and I'm too proud to beg. I have an idea that will secure my future. It will win me favour and secure friends who can take care of me and help me when I get fired!"

So the dishonest manager hatched his scheme. He went to everyone who owed his master money, one by one, and asked them, "How much do you owe my master?" One debtor owed \$20,000, so he said to him, "Let me see your bill. Pay me now and we'll settle for 20% less". The clever manager scratched out the original amount owed and reduced it by 20%.

To another who owed \$200,000, he said, "Pay me now, and we'll reduce your bill by 50%. And the clever manager scratched out the original amount owed and reduced it by half.

Even though his master was defrauded, when he found out about the shrewd way this manager had feathered his own nest, he congratulated the clever scoundrel for what he'd done to provide for his future.

Jesus continued, “Remember this” the sons of darkness interact more wisely than the sons of light. Use the wealth of this world to demonstrate your friendship with god by winning friends and blessing others. Then, when it runs out, your generosity will provide you with an eternal reward.”

Hmmm...
I suspect fraud
here...

I'm going to have
to sack that guy!





I'm going to be sacked
for sure....

Now, how can I survive
without this job...
hmmm... I've got an
idea.....

I'd rather get some money back than spend it all going through the courts

He may not be the best manager... but he did display foresight and intentional planning



- What is the difference between shrewdness and wisdom?

Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding*

2. Make Your Treasure Count

Luke 16:9-12 (NLT) *Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.*

“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?”

Matthew 6:19-21 *“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal.*

Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

Jesus' Checklist:

- Faithful with little
- Dishonest with little
- Not trustworthy with worldly wealth

- Faithful with more
- Dishonest with greater responsibility
- Can you be trusted with spiritual things?
- Will you be faithful with other's things?

3. Who Do We Serve?

Luke 16:13 *“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”*

- Knowledge = information
- Shrewdness = clever strategy
- Wisdom = God-centred discernment, rooted in reverence and obedience.

4. Start with Opening the Door

