

Luke 16:1-13

The Trouble With Two Masters

Luke 16:1-7 (NIV)

¹ Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions.

² So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— ⁴ I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶ “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

Questions for Discussion



What do you think of the manager’s response to losing his job?

Luke 16:8-13 (NIV)

⁸ “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

Definition

Shrewd: Having or showing sharp powers of judgment; astute.

¹³ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”



Why does the master commend the manager? Are you surprised by his reaction?

In most parables there is a character that represents Jesus, God, or some other righteous person. This parable is unique because none of the characters are worth emulating. This means Jesus was getting at something bigger than behavior modification. He is addressing a heart attitude.

? In verse 8, Jesus says “...the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.” How are our priorities as followers of Jesus different from those who don’t believe? How might this impact the way we interact with each other and the people around us in comparison to those who don’t follow Jesus?

? Jesus tells the disciples to “use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings”(vs. 9). What do you think He means by this?

Luke 12:33-34 (NIV)

³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

? How does Jesus’ teaching on wealth in Luke 12 contrast to His teaching on wealth here in Luke 16?

? How can we use our wealth to “make friends” for the kingdom? What other resources do we have that we can apply this attitude of giving to?

? In Luke 16, Jesus says that you cannot serve both God and money. In Luke 12 Jesus says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” How does our attitude toward wealth change the way we live our daily lives?

For Discussion and Accountability

? What resources do you specifically have that you want to use to build God’s kingdom? Are you truly treating these resources as God’s, or do you see them as your own?