

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////



This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!)

We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your LIFEgroup. Although you can review it on your own, it will be most useful to you when processed with others!

1. Why is man's perspective so different from God's (in your opinion)?
2. How do we know that the rich man was very wealthy? What was his mistake?
3. Why was the manager “shrewd” in his response? How can this be commended?
4. Of the four “lessons” from Jesus, which was most helpful and why?
5. What was the main problem for the Pharisees and what was the point of Jesus' direct words to them?
6. What was your best “take-away?”



August 20-21, 2016 | Shrewd Manager | Luke 16:1-16 | Dennis Miller

TWO LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. In this series, it seems that every story or parable has a “SURPRISE,” or a twist ending, reminding us that things are not always as they SEEM.
2. We understand again that God's view of most EVERYTHING is quite different than MAN'S perspective.

Luke 16:15 And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.”

THE PARABLE

Luke 16:1 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 “ ‘Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.’ 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.’ 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.”

— THE RICH MAN

He was VERY wealthy and lived in another part of the WORLD from his financial manager. *(The debt!)*

He learned of his manager's poor PRACTICES and fired him, but gave him time to do one LAST ACCOUNT of his records. *(Bad move!)*

— THE MANAGER

He handled the master's money POORLY and was about to be FIRED from a pretty good job.

He was PROUD, and he determined that he couldn't do MANUAL labor or BEG for help. That left few options.

He was most CONCERNED about having access to the HOMES of his friends. *(If he lost an influential position, he would lose his STATUS in the community.)*

He contacted each of his boss' debtors and REDUCED their debt to win FAVOR with each of them. *(In Jesus' culture, it was a matter of HONOR to return favor for favor. Each of these debtors was now also in the manager's debt.)*

— THE SURPRISE

The rich man actually COMMENDED the manager for being CLEVER. And Jesus, in what seems like an odd statement, says that the WORLD knows how to deal with "their own kind" better than Christians do.

THE PRACTICE

#1 — Luke 16:9 *I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.*

Jesus is NOT telling you to use your wealth to gain EARTHLY friends, but to spend your money for ETERNAL purposes. *Do what you can with your money to win heavenly friends.*

Luke 16: 9 and I say to you, Make to yourselves friends out of the mammon of unrighteousness, that when ye may fail, they may receive you to the age-during tabernacles. (Young's)

#2 — Luke 16:10 *"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.

Your integrity is not determined by the amount of money you HAVE but by what is in your HEART. You might say, *"if I won the lottery or inherited money, I would give more to charity."*

But the truth is, you WOULDN'T. Having more money doesn't make you a BETTER person.

#3 — Luke 16:11 *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?*

Jesus explains that if you can't handle MONEY and earthly resources, why would God trust you with ETERNAL wealth? You need to prove yourself in SIMPLE ways first.

#4 — Luke 16:13 *"No servant can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money."*

Lastly, you need to decide WHICH master you will serve as no true servant (οἰκέτης, oiketēs) can serve more than ONE.

THE PROLOGUE

Luke 16:14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. 15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight."

1. Although Jesus had been talking directly to His DISCIPLES, the Pharisees were eavesdropping, and they MOCKED Jesus.
2. Now Jesus spoke to the Pharisees and SCOLDED them for caring only about what OTHER people thought of them. While they might fool people, they would NEVER fool God. The Lord looks directly into our hearts.

3. We are all reminded that we need to seek those things that MATTER to God, and understand that what people value is often WORTHLESS from an eternal perspective.

So, CONSIDER . . .

What matters MOST to you? And if your answer isn't what it should be, what can you do to CHANGE it?