

# 2015 Parables of Jesus

The Austere Manager

Luke 16:1 - 8

# The Text

- Luke 16:1 – 8 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? Give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward. Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? For my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses. So he called everyone of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, how much owest thou unto my lord? And he said, A hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, A hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him Take thy bill, and write fourscore. And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

# New Living Translation

- Luke 16:1 – 8 Jesus told this story to his disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money. So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.’ “The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg. Ah, I know how to ensure that I’ll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.’ “So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe him?’ The man replied, ‘I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.’ So the manager told him, ‘Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.’ “And how much do you owe my employer?’ he asked the next man. ‘I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,’ was the reply. ‘Here,’ the manager said, ‘take the bill and change it to 800 bushels. “The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light.

# The Steward's Responsibility

- *Luke 16:1* And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a **steward**; and the same was accused unto him that he had **wasted** his goods.
- **Steward = oikonomos**— *one* to whom the head of the house or proprietor has entrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures
- **Wasted = Diascorpidso** – *causing to spread out or scatter*
- *He wasn't spending it or throwing it away*
- *He wasn't using it as his master had intended*
- *He was possibly spreading it out to investors or individuals that he is now friends with*

# The Owner Audits The Steward

- Luke 16:2-4 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? Give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward. Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? For my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

# The Wisdom Of The World Isn't Always “Wise”

- 1 Corinthians 1:17-22 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? **For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God,** it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

# Start Building “Street Credits”

- **Luke 16:8** And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.
- **1 Corinthians 1:23 – 25** But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

# How Children Of The World Are Wiser

- They are fools for their world, more than we are “fools” for Christ.
- They are oftentimes more consistent in their pursuit of their “questionable” principles.
- They may tire, falter, fail in their quest for worldly fame and fortune, but they rarely throw in the towel or abandon their goal.



# 1. The Wisdom Of The World Isn't Always "Wise"

- 1 Corinthians 1:17-22 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. **For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.** For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? **For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God,** it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

## 2. Do You Have Street Credit Only?

- **1 Corinthians 1:26 – 29** For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*: **But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:** That no flesh should glory in his presence.

# 3. We All Will Cash Out One Day

- A. **Hebrews 9:27** - It's Appointed
- B. **Romans 14:10** – We Shall All Stand Before The Judge
- C. **2 Corinthians 4:3 / Matthew 25:24** Your Return Must Exceed Your Deposit