

Parable of the Shrewd Manager

Luke 16¹⁻¹⁵

Warm Up Question(s) – Choose one

- When have you been let go from a job, or passed over for a job you wanted? What did you do?
- When you buy or sell a major purchase (e.g. a car), how much to do haggle over the price?

Introduction

Ever heard the story of the manager of the electronics firm who had a big salary and was climbing the corporate ladder? Suddenly he was called into the office and fired for business malpractice. The once-powerful man was in a real dilemma. He had a big mortgage on his home, all sort of things on credit, and little chance of landing another well-paying job. Agonizing over what to do, an idea dawned on him. He quickly began contacting the firm's biggest clients. To find out what happened next read Jesus' version of the story in Luke 16:1-15.

Discovering the Word

- 1) **Read Luke 16:1-15.** Of all Jesus' parables, this is probably the most puzzling. What questions or concerns do you have about this parable?
- 2) What accusation does the rich man have against the manager?
- 3) What crisis does the manager find himself it? How does he try to make the best out of a bad situation?
- 4) Why do you think each of his master's debtors go along with the manager's plan?
- 5) Why do you think Jesus used a story of a shrewd dishonest manager rather than a reputable one?
- 6) What did the master find commendable in his manager's actions (v.8)? What did Jesus find more commendable among "the people of this world" than "the people of the light" (v.9)?
- 7) What main points or lessons does Jesus draw out from this story?
- 8) Have you ever learned a positive lesson from a person who also had some glaring ethical flaw(s)?
- 9) Who heard Jesus tell this story (v.1, 14)? Why was it important for them all to hear this parable?
- 10) What different views of money do people have (e.g. "It's all mine", "It's my creditors", "It's God's", etc.), and how does each of these views impact what people do with it?
- 11) What does it mean to you to be "trustworthy in handling worldly wealth"?
- 12) What is the toughest decision you have had to (or need to) make concerning your finances?
- 13) How can this group pray for you?