

(Rightly) Using the Opportunities of Life
(Save for Eternal Retirement.)
Luke 16.1-16

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?” Luke 16.10-12

One Point: God gives you what you need for this life and the next; use it prudently.

One Question: Was the manager a good guy or a rascal?

The parable vs. 2-8 is a warning to the rich to be generous to kingdom work.

Live for today and be mindful of the future.

Jesus’ applications.

Make friends with _____

When you _____ your earthly treasure is worthless.

Every opportunity is a test.

The Pharisees’ response.

They “turned their noses up” at him.

The parable is a continuation of the parable of The Foolish Son. Therefore, it is set off by the Pharisees grumbling in 15.2, “*This man receives sinners and eats with them.*” Notice the continued poor attitude in 16.14, “*The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him.*” In 16.1 “*He also said to the disciples*” he turns his attention to his disciples and teaches them two warnings to the rich, this parable of the prudent manager and then the Rich man and Lazarus. The theme is simple; use the opportunities God gives you to do the work of the kingdom. In the message, we will have to peel back the skin of historical distance and cut through the haze of cultural difference to understand the 191 words of the parable.

What do you need to know? This is a parable, so no back story; some questions will be left unanswered. Slander about this household/business manager has reached his master’s ears he is about to be fired. “Turn in the books!” Let’s see what you have been doing with my property. There is a reckoning for all managers.

This manager is a man weak of muscle but strong in pride and intellect. What he does with the bills was to take away his commission from the bills, or he removes the unlawful interest. Either way, he is not cheating his master. If he cheated, the master would condemn him more, not commended! The word, shrewd, is a poor choice for modern English; the word “prudent” or phrase forward thinking would be better. A disciple of Jesus is a disciple because he or she cares about the future.

Why do you need to know it? When is your *unrighteous wealth* no longer useful? When does it lose its value? Review verse 9. It loses value when you die. The disciple makes friends with God in this life and then welcomed into *eternal dwellings*. God trusts us with opportunities in this life, and as we do well with little, he trusts us with more. Every day is a cross-bearing test. If one cannot be trusted with little; well, you know the rest. **What do you need to do?** Check your management of God’s resources. Jesus is addressing his disciples, and the Pharisees ridicule him because they “were lovers of money.” Love God and hate your wallet.