

The Shrewd Manager – Luke 16:1-15

Risk it all on the Master's grace to make friends for the Kingdom of God!

Intro. -

- A. Major Themes of the Parables:
 1. Surprising Arrival and Nature of God's Kingdom
 2. The Upside-down value system of the Kingdom
 3. Crisis Parable
- B. Parables explain God and His Kingdom. Questions to ask Jesus about the parable:
 1. What am I to learn about God and his Kingdom?
 2. What am I to learn about being a disciple in God's Kingdom?
 3. What am I to know about those outside of the Kingdom?
- C. Context: What is going on in the narrative before and after this story?
 - Luke 15:1-3, 7, 10

I. Parable Of The Dishonest Manager – “Your Fired!” (Luke 16:1-8)

- A. Comparison of the prodigal son and dishonest manager
 - The same word “squandering” in Luke 16:1(NASB) is used to describe the younger son in Luke 15:13
- B. Silent confession with new revelation
- C. Dire straits with little time
- D. Shrewd plan with big risk

II. Parable Of The Gracious Master – “I commend you for your shrewdness!” (Luke 16:1-8)

- A. Comparison of the Prodigal Father and the Rich Man

III. Jesus Gives Three Principles For Kingdom Shrewdness

(Luke 16:9-13)

1. “Use worldly wealth to graciously make friends” – v. 9
 - Unrighteous wealth
 - Eternal dwellings
2. “Be faithful with the small things God gives you” – vv. 10-12
 1. Resources – material wealth down to the penny
 2. Responsibilities – small jobs that seem insignificant
3. “Serve the Gracious Master, not the money” – v. 13
 - Acts 4:33, 36-37; 13:2

IV. Some Scoff At Jesus' Teaching – Luke 16:14-15

“The steward knew the master was generous and merciful. He risked everything on this aspect of his master's nature. He won. Because the master was indeed generous and merciful, he chose to pay the full price for his steward's salvation!” – Kenneth Bailey

Devotion:

1. *How much do I think or worry about money?*
2. *Am I being faithful with the wealth the Lord has given me?*
3. *How big of a risk am I willing to gamble on God's grace?*
4. *Jesus, how can I shrewdly use my worldly resources to make friends for your Kingdom right now?*