

Rediscover Jesus, Part 60: “Lessons for a Faithful Steward from a Dishonest Manager”

Luke 16:1-13

Ps. Eric Yee

*Faithful stewards of God use wealth on earth
to make friends for heaven.*

I. Explanation of the parable (vv. 1-8a)

¹ He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions.² And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’³ And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.’⁴ I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’⁶ He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’⁷ Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness...

II. Three characteristics of a faithful steward of God (vv. 8b-13)

A. Care for people: Invest in people in light of eternity (vv. 8b-9)

⁸ ... For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

B. Consistency of character: Show faithfulness in little things (vv. 10-12)

¹⁰ “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.¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?”

C. Complete commitment: Be devoted to God alone (v. 13)

¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.”

Before “the Great Change,” Wilberforce had reckoned his money and time his own, to do with as he pleased.... But suddenly he knew that this could no longer be the case. The Scriptures were plain and could not be gainsaid [or denied] on this most basic point: all that was his—his wealth, his talents, his time—was not really his. It all belonged to God and had been given to him to use for God’s purposes and according to God’s will.