**“THE PARABLE OF THE SHREWD MANAGER”**

 **Luke 16:1-9**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Point of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*What part of the sermon did you find most beneficial?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

1. How is a shrewd businessperson viewed in our society today?
2. In what ways does our culture pressure us to love money?
3. How can the love of money hurt a person?

**Luke 16:1-9 (NLT2)**
1  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.
2  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.’
3  “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.
4  Ah, I know how to ensure that I’ll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.’
5  “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?’
6  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.’
7  “‘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.’
8  “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.
9  Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.

***EXPLORE***

* + 1. How did the rich man respond to the manager who was "wasting his possessions"? ([16:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+16%3A1-2))
		2. Why was the manager scared to lose his job? ([16:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+16%3A3))
		3. What plan did the manager devise to secure his future? ([16:4-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+16%3A4-7))
		4. How did the rich master react to the dishonest dealings of the manager? ([16:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+16%3A8))

* + 1. Who are the "people of light" to whom Jesus referred? ([16:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+16%3A8))
		2. How does Jesus want us to use money? ([16:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+16%3A9))

***APPLY***

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves"?
2. Why is it so difficult to keep a proper perspective on money?
3. How do you think God wants you to change the way you handle your resources?

1. How can we be sure that we will be "welcomed into eternal dwellings"?
2. During the next few weeks, what is one way you can live more simply?
3. Where would you say you’re strongest as a steward: in character, in considering consequences, or in worshiping God alone?
4. Where would you say you need to ask God for more grace and sanctification: character, consequences, or the challenge to worship God alone?

**Additional Thoughts:**

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