

1 **USING WHAT WE'VE BEEN GIVEN FOR ETERNAL PURPOSES**

Luke 16:1-13

2

This might be a confusing parable to you. We might wonder: "Is Jesus commending this guy who is cheating and manipulating?"

Actually, everyone in the story is shady, at best.

The worker: dishonest & manipulative

The debtors: they knew what was going on; complicit

The owner: impressed with the cutthroat tactics

3

- Description of a scenario. An illustration (1-8a)
- Statement by Jesus to summarize the point/draw contrast (8b)
- Instruction to His people in light of the illustration and statement in 8b (9-12)
- Heart of the struggle (13)

4 **Not praise for the wicked; indictment of the righteous**

v8b

Shrewd = to act wisely and with insight

People of the world act shrewdly to provide for the short-term future.

People of the light are not as quick to provide for the long-term, eternal future.

5 **v9 Use your worldly wealth...**

Which is not yours...and is not lasting...

...To gain friends.

What?! So, manipulate people with my money and material things? "Scratch my back and I'll scratch yours"?

No.

6 **Investment**

- v9 When all of this is gone, welcomed into eternal dwellings:
 - This is not about earning you a trip to heaven, but ensuring there will be more folks there to greet you

Helping people with the temporal so that we can help them with the eternal.

7 **Giving/using our stuff for others:**

- 1) Shows we care about them
- 2) Authenticates/validates our message
 - Jesus and the apostles' ministry – message & miracles
 - "Be reconciled to God"

8

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

- Jim Elliot

9 **v13 No one can serve two masters...**

The heart of the struggle:

We will either serve God and use money or we will serve money and use God.

10

"...Those who love [God] will choose to honor him by not making earthly wealth their master. Instead of using it to selfishly gratify their desires, they will seek to manage the money He has entrusted to them for the salvation of souls to the glory of God."

- MacArthur