

The Parables of Jesus

Lesson Fifteen – Parable of the Shrewd Steward - Handout

I. About the parable

- a. This parable is a continuation of the teaching parables beginning in chapter 14 (The Great Banquet and the Three Lost parables in 15.) and concludes at 17:10. It no longer deals with _____ and _____ the lost but with the _____ of those found.
- b. In this parable we should not _____ special meaning to each person and every detail. The parable seeks to convey one specific truth, and all the details must be understood in light of that truth.
- c. None of the players in the parable are _____ but _____. The steward has been a _____, the debtors were willing to _____ the rich man, and the master _____ of fraudulent behavior, even at his own expense.
- d. Jesus, the _____, the _____, and the _____, is not condoning deceit and immoral behavior, despite of the way the KJV translates verse 8.

II. Luke 16:1-2

- a. This parable is addressed to the _____, but the Pharisees are also present and respond to it.
 - i. See verse 14
- b. The accusation of _____ is brought to the attention of the rich man secretly.
 - i. He is accused of mismanagement and not _____.
 - 1. This why he had the time to “cook the books.”
 - 2. This is why he was not _____.
 - a. See Luke 12:46

III. Luke 16:3-4

- a. Despite the circumstances, he demonstrates the admirable traits of _____ assessment and _____ planning, the characteristics Jesus _____ His disciples to adopt.

IV. Luke 16:5-7

- a. His _____ is to make his master's debtors _____ to him.
- b. Until the "books" are turned over to the master, he still has the _____ to negotiate these contracts, even though an inventory will show the discrepancy.
- c. New documents had to be created, because _____ an existing one would _____ the changes.
- d. Having the debtors write the new ones was another layer of _____ for the steward.
- e. It had to be done " _____ " so he could comply with the master's request.

V. Luke 16:8-9

- a. It is the _____ and not Jesus who commends the steward for his behavior.
- b. Jesus, however, often uses _____ behavior to teach a _____ lesson.
 - i. This is not a condoning of _____, but a call to strategic _____ and proactive _____ in spiritual matters.

VI. Luke 16:10-12

- a. Jesus is once again using a _____, like the "how much more" approach; " _____ " (worldly wealth) verses " _____ " (true riches).

- b. He is _____ condemning worldly wealth (little) as it is someone else's property.

VII. Luke 16:13

- a. Jesus doesn't say "two _____".
 - i. You can have more than one boss, but you can only have one _____.
 - ii. Worldly wealth can and should be used to _____ and _____ God.

VIII. Parable Lessons

- a. _____ and _____:
 - i. We are _____ for how we _____ the resources entrusted to us.
 - 1. See 1 Peter 4:10
- b. Using _____ wealth for _____ purposes.
- c. Spiritual _____
 - i. This is not a condoning of dishonesty, but a call to strategic planning and proactive thinking in spiritual matters.
- d. _____ and _____

