

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE // PART 14 (Ch. 16)

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SERMON NOTES:

Theologians almost universally agree that the parable of the shrewd manager in Luke 16 is the most difficult and complicated teaching of Jesus and one of the hardest to interpret. There are many ways to interpret this. That's part of the beauty of Jesus' teaching and the richness of our Scriptures. We will look at one of the many ways to understand this parable. Luke gives us one important detail to interpret this story - it is directed at the disciples, at believers.

Jesus told his **disciples**...

~ Luke 16:1

The way Jesus tells this story, a rich man hears his manager is squandering his money and asks for an accounting.

Notes: 1. The Dishonest Manager faces reality and takes responsibility

“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now?
My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig,
and I’m ashamed to beg.’”

~ Luke 16:3

Notes: 2. The Dishonest Manager takes action

“I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here,
people will welcome me into their houses.”

~ Luke 16:4

He comes up with a plan. It is a daring plan, full of ingenuity. What is interesting is that he knows he has a very narrow window of opportunity. The master has fired him, but others don’t know about this yet. So he works his plan within this narrow window of opportunity.

He is not passive; He is not deluding himself. He takes action. He drastically reduces the obligations of the debtors owing to his master.

The crazy thing is, his scheme works. The rich man finds out about it. And the twist at the end of the story that must have surprised the disciples.

“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.”

~ Luke 16:8

Notes: 3. How Much More!

Sometimes the rabbis and teachers would talk about a Scripturally inconsistent point and use a phrase like “how much more” to make an important point. Using a negative example to make a positive point.

Jesus is saying people who do not know God, do not know Jesus, they often are more resourceful, they show more initiative, they have more nerve, they show more courage, they are more imaginative and bold and daring in facing reality, taking responsibility and making a plan and acting on it than people of the light.

Jesus is challenging each and every one of us within the community of God. He is saying, listen, face reality in your life, take responsibility, make a plan and do something. Take action.

Notes:

Post your step of action on DRCC Social Media.

Facebook:

/DamascusRoadCommunityChurch

Twitter & Instagram:

/drcc_church

SMALL GROUP RESOURCE PAGE

Each small group is different.
Feel free to adjust and use what best fits your group.

WARM UP:

- Watch this video of being stuck on an escalator - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq65aAYCHOW>
- Obviously, there are degrees of severity in what people face. What kind of issues keep some stuck, when they can just step “off the escalator”?

ENGAGE:

- What was most impactful to you from this weekend’s service?
- Read through Luke 16:1-8.

APPLY:

- Do you agree that sometimes people of the light are slower in taking action than people of the world?
- How can we balance trust in God with taking action?
(Check out Matthew 10:16; James 1:23-25; Colossians 3:17, 23)
- In what area of your life do you need to reject passivity and take action?

PRAY:

- Spend some time individually before the Lord, seeking to hear what God is saying about what we are studying these days. Close with Revelation 7:9-10 as a benediction.

GOING DEEPER:

- Suggested resource – *Luke for Everyone* by N.T. Wright
- If you are not in a Small Group, there’s at least one that needs you! Get started at damascus.com/groups

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