

I. What the parable says (with cultural commentary).

II. What the parable means.

A. Interpreting allegory.

1. Who does the rich man represent? God who is just, forgiving & generous.
2. Who does the dishonest manager represent? What we're called to be (sort of)

B. Why is the manager commended as Shrewd?

C. How does the manager represent something (shrewdness) that we're called to emulate?

A fortiori argument—from weaker to stronger. Vrs. 8b & 9.

1. If this wicked steward shrewdly counted on his master's generosity, how much more ought we to bank on our Master's generosity in our stewardship.
2. If an unrighteous steward rightly longs for home & work, how much more ought we to long for and live for our eternal dwellings?
3. If sons of this world, who love money and make it an idol, are shrewd in using it to get something better, how much more ought we, sons of light (who don't idolize money), use it to gain something sublime & eternal—heavenly reward.

III. How are we to apply this parable?

A. 16:10-12.

1. Faithful in little, faithful in much. Dishonest in little, dishonest in much.
What is the little & what is the much?
2. The here and now verses eternity.
3. How will these true riches be "your own"? Heb. 1:2, Ro. 8: 16-17.
4. Christ's challenge
5. Christ's conclusion.

B. Final application: 16:14-15.