Haddonfield
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connect Guide

Shrewd

Week of Sunday, November 15, 2026

All original content by Rev. Dr. Chris Heckert unless noted.



Luke 16:1-13 (NRSV)

1 Then Jesus said to the
disciples, "There was a
rich man who had a manager, and charges were
brought to him that this man was squandering his
property. 2 So he summoned him and said to him,
'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an
accounting of your management, because you
cannot be my manager any longer.' 3 Then the
manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that
my master is taking the position away from me? I
am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to
beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am
dismissed as manager, people may welcome me
into their homes.' 5 So, summoning his master's
debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much
do you owe my master?' 6 He answered, 'A
hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your
bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' 7 Then he
asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He
replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to
him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 8 And his
master commended the dishonest manager
because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of
this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own
generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell
you, make friends for yourselves by means of
dishonest wealth so that when it is gone,

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Opening

1. **Pray:** Loving and Generous God, we thank you for bringing us together today to share in community and reflection. Open our eyes to see the abundance you have placed in our lives, and release us from the fear of not having enough. Teach us to use our time, talents, and resources creatively to love our neighbors and build your kingdom. Amen.

2. **Share:** When you think of someone in your life who is remarkably generous with their time or attention, what is a specific habit or quality of theirs that stands out to you?

Dive Into the Text

1. In the Parable of the Dishonest Manager, the manager realizes he is about to lose his position and quickly uses his remaining authority to reduce the debts of his master's debtors. What does his urgency reveal about what he valued most in that crisis?

2. Why do you think the master commended the manager's shrewdness, even though his actions were questionable? What point was Jesus making about how intentional we should be in pursuing spiritual values versus worldly ones?

3. Jesus concludes this teaching by stating, *"No servant can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money."* How does shifting our primary loyalty to God change the way we view and manage our material wealth?

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Luke 16:1-13 (continued)

they may welcome you into the eternal homes.
10 “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in
much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is
dishonest also in much. 11 If then you have not been
faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust
to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been
faithful with what belongs to another, who will give
you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two
masters; for a slave will either hate the one and
love the other, or be devoted to the one and
despise the other. You cannot serve God and
wealth.”

Shrewd

Generosity is not about having enough. It's literally about what we do with what we have. And what we do is usually determined by what we value.

Heckert, Chris (Rev. Dr.). “Shrewd." Sermon, Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 15 November. 2026.

Go Deeper

1. How often do you catch yourself slipping into conditional "if/then" thinking regarding your generosity (e.g., *"If I had more time or money, then I would give or volunteer"*), and how can you practice giving out of what you have right now?

2. Jesus noted that people are often incredibly creative and resourceful when pursuing worldly success. What would it look like for you to bring that same level of creativity and intentionality into how you care for people in your daily life?

3. What is one practical boundary or habit you can adjust this week (such as trading screen time for a text, phone call, or visit) to be more relationally present with someone who needs encouragement?

Close in Prayer

Close your time in prayer together.