

The Power of Money

The Shrewd Manager

I. Introduction

A. Luke 16:1-12 (NLT) ¹Jesus told this story to his disciples: "A rich man hired a manager to handle his affairs, but soon a rumor went around that the manager was thoroughly dishonest. ²So his employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about your stealing from me? Get your report in order, because you are going to be dismissed.' ³"The manager thought to himself, 'Now what? I'm through here, and I don't have the strength to go out and dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. ⁴I know just the thing! And then I'll have plenty of friends to take care of me when I leave!' ⁵"So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe him?' ⁶The man replied, 'I owe him eight hundred gallons of olive oil.' So the manager told him, 'tear up that bill and write another one for four hundred gallons.' ⁷"'And how much do you owe my employer?' he asked the next man. 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' was the reply. 'Here,' the manager said, 'take your bill and replace it with one for only eight hundred bushels.' ⁸"The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the citizens of this world are more shrewd than the godly are. ⁹I tell you, use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. In this way, your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven. ¹⁰"Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won't be faithful in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. ¹¹And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? ¹²And if you are not faithful with other people's money, why should you be trusted with money of your own?"

II. What the Shrewd Manager was Commended for

- A. He faced the fact he had a problem.
- B. He put together a plan to solve his problem.
1. The 10 - 10 - 80 Plan.
 - a. Pay God.
 - i. Prov. 3:9-10 (NAS) ⁹Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; ¹⁰So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.
 - b. Pay yourself.
 - c. Live on the rest.
- C. He implemented the plan.

III. Conclusion