

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

Luke 16:1-18

by Don Falkos

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One day Jesus told his disciples this story:

There was once a rich man who had a business manager to handle his affairs. The man learned his manager was mishandling his properties. He fired the manager.

But the manager thought, "I'll show him. When he throws me out on the street, I'll have plenty of friends willing to welcome me into their homes."

One by one the manager called in everyone who was in debt to his employer. He then proceeded to forgive a huge percentage of their debt.

The rich man, despite himself, had to admire the shrewdness of his manager.

"If you can be trusted with a little, you can be trusted with a lot. If you're dishonest with a little, you'll be dishonest with a lot. If you can't be trusted with the riches of this world, how can you possibly be trusted with the true riches of heaven?"

"No one can serve two masters. You'll hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Some Pharisees scoffed at Jesus. But Jesus said, "You Pharisees like to make yourselves look good in public, but God knows what's in your heart. The things people think are important, God considers worthless."

"Up to now the Law of Moses and the messages of the prophets have been your guide. They have always testified to the validity and importance of the Kingdom of God, they will always continue to do so. But they could not bring about that kingdom. Nevertheless, the Kingdom of God is now being proclaimed, and people are clamoring to get in."