

First Church of God

November 3, 2013

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“Can You Trust Me?”

Luke 16: 1 – 13

16 ¹ Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions.

² So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³ “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—

⁴ I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶ “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

⁸ “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.

⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Introduction:

The foolish steward had a wrong attitude about **people** and a wrong attitude about **money**.

1. Everyone is Accountable to God

Luke 16: 1 – 2

¹ Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear

about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

Accountability= answerable / responsible to

Thought: God is the **owner**.

2. Areas of Accountability:

- **Our Bodies**

Romans 12: 1 “Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – which is your spiritual worship.”

- **Our Possessions**

Luke 14:33 “In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”

- **Our Time**

Ephesians 5:15 – 17 “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.”

- **Our Spiritual Gifts**

I Peter 4:10 “Each one (believer) should use whatever Spiritual Gift he/she has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

- **Our Witness**

I Thessalonians 2:4 “On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.”

3. Lessons Learned From the Actions of the Foolish Steward.

⁴ I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶ “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. ‘The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

- Take advantage of every **opportunity.**

Luke 18: 8 – 9

⁸ “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.

⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”

- Our **Walk** must match our **Talk.**

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¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

Statement: When you talk and your talk line up, you can be a trusted witness for Christ .

Witness always; speak when necessary.

- God expects our full **devotion.**

Luke 16:13 “No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and

love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”