



Lesson 6: The Dishonest Manager (*Luke 16:1-13*)

Introduction

Audience:

Theme:

2 x CHALLENGES Raised

1) The master is ready to fire him

... but later commends him for being shrewd

2) The manager is portrayed to be unrighteous

... but Jesus doesn't appear to condemn him either

Are we to use deceptive ways to make money for kingdom use?!?!

4 x KEYS to Understand

1. *Window of Opportunity*

(vv.1-4)

- Is he guilty? On what charge?
- He hasn't been fired yet. Called to give an account
- Makes the most of the time afforded to him

2. *Debt Reduction*

(vv.5-7)

- Sizeable Cut

Deuteronomy 23:19-20 - "You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest. You may charge a foreigner interest, but you may not charge your brother interest, that the Lord your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land that you are entering to take possession of it."

- **Option A)**

The Master Short-Changed

- **Option B)**

The Manager's Margin

Are 'ethical business principles' the point of this parable?

3. *Winning Favour with Friends*

(vv.4,8a)

- Is he commended for his *dishonesty* or his *shrewdness*?
- What's the impact/benefit to the Master?
- What's the impact/benefit to the Manager? (v.4)

4. *The Main Point*

(vv.8b-9)

- People will do almost anything to protect their investments.
- To what extent will we go when dealing with each other?

“And I tell you, make **friends** for yourselves by means of **unrighteous wealth**, so that **when it fails they** may receive you into the eternal dwellings.” (v.9)

- Wealth:
- Unrighteous/Worldly:
- When it fails:
- Who will receive us into heaven?

Are we good stewards of the resources God has blessed us with?

4 x IMPLICATIONS for Us

1. Time:

- We're on notice
- **Phil 3:20** – Our citizenship is in heaven

2. Resources:

- Are the resources you have really yours?

3. Investment:

- How are we using the resources at our disposal?
- Earthly/Temporary Homes (v4) vs. Heavenly/Eternal Dwellings (v9)

4. Test:

(vv.10-13)

- Prove ourselves responsible
- Faithfulness in this life vs. reward in the next
- **1 Cor. 3:13** – Each one's work will be tested

Luke 12:34 - *Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*