**Shrewd Sons of Light**

*Luke 16:1-13*

**Introduction**

1. ***“So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:33)*** – Christians cannot truly follow the Lord without forsaking all.
2. This is not as big of a problem for the spiritually minded who have their thoughts set on things above – those whose greatest desire and priority is to get to heaven.
3. However, there are some Christians who, although they understand their main focus and desire should be on heaven, do not reflect such in their living.
4. **In fact, Jesus suggested that those who are not God’s children sometimes seem to be more mindful of their material interests than God’s children are of their spiritual interests.**
   1. **Luke 16:8b** – *shrewd* – prudent, i.e. mindful of one’s interests (Strong)
   2. If our greatest desire, and priority is to get to heaven, shouldn’t the way we live our lives reflect such.
5. Jesus spoke a parable to his disciples to emphasize this point.
6. The Parable of the Unjust Steward
7. The Parable **(vv. 1-8a)**
   1. **(vv. 1-2)** – Steward was going to be fired.
      1. Jesus calls him the ***“unjust steward” (v. 8).***
      2. **Commended (v. 8a)** – not for his unrighteous actions, but for his shrewdness regarding the interests of his future.
   2. **(vv. 3-4)** – Thought to himself concerning actions to take regarding his future.
      1. **(v. 3)** – doesn’t want manual labor; too prideful to beg.
      2. **(v. 4)** – devised a plan where his master’s debtors will take him in (whether it be providing him stay, or a job).
   3. **(vv. 5-8a)** – Went to debtors, and told them to minimize their bill.
      1. **NOTE:** The steward’s actions were not authorized. They were selfish, and the master would suffer loss as a result.
      2. **Shrewdly** – prudent, i.e. mindful of one’s interests.
         1. The commendation **(v. 8)** was simply about the steward being mindful enough to take care of his own future.
         2. **He acted in preparation for what he knew to be inevitable.**
      3. **Wisdom of plan:**
         1. **Gained favor from master’s debtors** – then when he was fired they would return the favor.
         2. **Deniability** – ***“Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write…”*** – written in their own handwriting.
         3. **Diabolical, but ensured a future for the steward.**
8. Jesus’ Application **(vv. 8b-13)**
   1. **(v. 8b)** – Worldly people are more prudent about worldly interests than disciples are about spiritual interests.
      1. **Generation** – men of the same stock, family (Strong).
      2. ***“for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light”*** – i.e. in relation to those who are worldly, regarding worldly things.
      3. **We claim to long for something more lasting and important, but are we showing that in our actions?**
   2. **(vv. 9-12)** – Be prudent in your dealings on earth with heaven in mind.
      1. Parable specifically regarding riches – **(v. 14)** – Pharisees loved money.
      2. **(v. 9)** – Use things entrusted you by God in such a way, that when they fail and are no more (*physical, temporal, like money*), you will get to heaven.
      3. **(vv. 10-11)** – The one who is not ***“faithful”*** (*trustworthy*) in the little things (*physical, temporal, not spiritual*) (*using them in service to God*) will not be trusted with the greater (*spiritual*) things.
         1. Some wonder why they are not growing spiritually.
         2. **Sometimes they wonder this while they aren’t putting to good use the things God has provided them with.**
         3. **If we aren’t showing a spiritual focus in all things, how do we expect to grow in spiritual things?**
      4. **(v. 12)** – If you have not used the resources given by God in the most prudent way, how do you expect God to give you something (*heavenly treasure*) to have as your own?
   3. **(v. 13)** – Your priorities cannot be divided. Make up your mind, and provide for your best interest!
      1. **Cf. 2 Timothy 2:4** – A soldier is focused on pleasing his commanding officers. Therefore, he does not get caught up in the matters back home.
      2. If our focus is heaven, we can’t allow other things to distract us!
   4. **Pharisees were main offenders (Reflected in the story of the rich man, vv. 19-31):**
      1. Read **vv. 19-23.**
      2. The rich man had the resources and opportunities (Lazarus at HIS gate) to help Lazarus out, but did not – **HE DID NOT MAKE GOOD USE OF THE RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES GOD GAVE HIM!**
      3. He wound up in torments!
9. Application of the Parable – Are We Acting Shrewdly? – are we making friends for ourselves by “unrighteous mammon?” (I.e. are we using the resources God has supplied us with on earth in every way we can to lay up heavenly treasure?)
10. Money
    1. **James 1:17** – Every good gift comes from God, including our money.
    2. **IT HAS BE ENTRUSTED TO US! –** i.e. we’re merely STEWARDS of what God gave us.
    3. **1 Timothy 6:17-19** – Use “unrighteous mammon” that is not certain to store up heavenly treasures.
       1. Even for those who aren’t “rich.”
       2. **1 John 3:16-17** – In areas where we can assist the brethren.
    4. **Especially in giving back to the Lord:**
       1. **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** – God expects us to give bountifully, and we will reap bountifully.
       2. What, in part, we are blessed with money for – ***“you are enriched in everything for all liberality” (v. 11).***
11. Time/Opportunities
    1. **Ephesians 5:15-16** – Time is a gift from God to man, and we need to use it wisely!
    2. **2 Timothy 2:15** – Using our time to grow? ***(“Do not quench the Spirit” 1 Thessalonians 5:19***).
       1. **Hebrews 5:12-14** – Some in the Hebrew audience were not making good use of the time to grow. (***“reason of use have their senses exercised”*** – study, prayer, meditation)
       2. **Are we guilty of the same**?
    3. **With time comes opportunities to practice what knowledge we’ve gained in study:**
       1. **John 9:1-5** – Jesus took advantage of the opportunity to manifest His glory by healing the blind man.
       2. **(v. 3)** – Jesus is saying that this is something I can use to show my Divinity.
       3. **Are we looking for, and taking advantages of opportunities to do God’s will? GOD ENTRUSTS US WITH TIME AND OPPORTUNITIES – *are we being shrewd in preparing for our spiritual future?***

**Conclusion**

1. God has entrusted us with riches, both monetarily and otherwise – everything we have comes from God, and is to be used in such a way that would prepare us for heaven.
2. Are we shrewd sons of light? – Are we wise about our spiritual future?
3. **The world should not be wiser, and more diligent about their physical possessions/future than Christians are about their spiritual possessions/future!**