



Celebration - Sunday 8:45 am  
Elevation - Sunday 10:45 am

February 8, 2009  
Pastor David Mitchell

**The Parable of the  
Shrewd Manager**  
*Luke 16:1-18*

**“WISE STEWARDSHIP IN TOUGH TIMES”**

Qualities of a shrewd manager include:

1. Know that God owns it all but you manage it for Him.  
Luke 16:1, 2; I Chronicles 29:11, 12

God has called us to also manage the following: (see **Digging Deeper**)

1. His gospel truth. I Corinthians 4:1, 2; 9:16, 17; Colossians 1:25
2. His grace of forgiveness. Ephesians 3:1, 2
3. His gift for service. I Peter 4:10

2. Invest your stewardship for higher kingdom purposes.  
Luke 16:3-9, 13

How a shrewd financial manager will invest:

- Give with an intentional plan. Luke 16:4-6; I Corinthians 16:2
- Use money to invest in relationships. Luke 16:9; I Timothy 6:17, 18
- Use money so people find an “eternal dwelling” in God’s kingdom. Luke 16:9; I Timothy 6:19

3. Be faithful in small ways to prove you can be trusted in larger ways.  
Luke 16:10-18

In what small ways are you proving your faithfulness to God in the following:

*Giving to His ministry.*

*Using your spiritual gift to serve others.*

*Sharing the gospel with friends and family.*

*Giving grace to those who need forgiveness.*

## DIGGING DEEPER in Luke 16:1-18

This challenging parable should inspire us to be “shrewd” and wise in how we manage all that God has given to us. We live in a blessed time and place. Our wealth and opportunity is greater than most any other time in history or any other place in this world today. We have been given a trust or stewardship from God and He requires that we manage it wisely.

From the front outline, read through the following passages which teach areas of stewardship we are to manage for His sake. Stewardship is not always just dealing with money.

We have been given a stewardship of His truth and the gospel message. **I Corinthians 4:1-5; 9:16, 17; Colossians 1:25**

In **I Corinthians 4:1-5**, what does God require of us in managing the stewardship of the mysteries of God? By “mysteries” he is referring to the salvation of Christ and His rich spiritual inheritance that all people may gain in Him.

In **I Corinthians 4:5**, what kind of accountability will God have for us? Reflect on how well you are managing His finances, spiritual gift, and grace in your life?

In **I Corinthians 9:16, 17**, Paul speaks of the stewardship of the gospel. This refers to preaching on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus for our forgiveness and eternal salvation. Where are you managing the gospel message to share it with others?

Read **Colossians 1:24-29**.

What stewardship does Paul have in vs. 25?

In vs. 27, who hears this message?

In vs. 28, 29, what is the goal of God’s truth? How do you see this goal being accomplished in your life? In your attitude, relationships, work ethic, honesty, communication to others.

We have also been given a stewardship of God’s grace, to share with others.

Read **Ephesians 3:1-6**. In verse 2, Paul speaks of the “stewardship of God’s grace.” This certainly includes the gospel and His Word, but here the emphasis is also on how the Gentiles are “fellow heirs” with the Jews. This grace is to bridge any strained relationship the Jews may have with the Gentiles. As you consider your life, is there someone you need to extend this grace to but you are refusing to forgive, reconcile or express appropriate love to them? Why? If you are a “steward of God’s grace” what should you then do?

A third area of stewardship is the gift of service. Read **I Peter 4:10**.

Do you know what your spiritual gift is? If not, I highly encourage you to take our How to Reach LifeLab which will help you identify your gift from God. Where are you using your gift in active service for our Lord? Serving others with your gift means you are a “shrewd manager” which pleases our Lord.

