

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Luke 16:1-13

September 15, 2019

Wake up, steward! Manage your relationships wisely.

❖ Why this parable about an unethical manager?

- The master *commends* him? That's shocking!
- Pay careful attention to what Jesus is saying.
- *clever* - most translate: *shrewd*
 - ♦ Let's take a poll. Is *shrewd* a compliment or criticism?
 - ♦ *Shrewd: 1) marked by clever discerning awareness, common sense - being smart or clever in a practical sort of way. far-seeing*
 - ♦ *2) given to wily and artful ways or dealing - to his own advantage*
- Parable's point: children of light, live with wise far-seeing common sense

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❖ Wake up! Don't just put in your time. Steward cleverly for Christ.

- The manager lacked focus/purpose - until he considered his future.
- Why are the worldly better purposeful planners than believers?
 - ♦ In the face of hunger, homelessness, and death - use time wisely
 - ♦ God's children know God does it all to save us. *So let him do it all.*
 - False contentment with contempt for our calling as his stewards
 - Our status as children - secure through Christ's work.
 - God's purpose: transform us into Christ's image - living his word
- God's children, managers of all we are and have for *God's name to be hallowed, his kingdom to come among us and through us, and his will reigning in our lives to free us to serve and help others live in Christ.*
 - ♦ Use your being, abilities, skills, intellect, the gospel, and all resources asking: *What will this mean at the resurrection?*
 - ♦ Our long-range mission has short-term implications on our time & stuff
 - ♦ Manage relationships - goal: *to be welcomed into an eternal home*
 - What's the purpose of accomplishments and stuff left behind?
 - Relationships (love in action) use time, skills, and knowledge
 - People indebted to you for eternity - thanking God for you.
 - People you knew: *Jesus used you to bring me here.*
 - People you didn't meet: *Your time with Susan led her to share Jesus with Steve, who shared it with Ann, who used the gospel to encourage me to stand firm. God used you to rescue me. Thank you. - Who told you? - Ann, Steve, and Susan. Jesus wanted me to know. Welcome!*

- Greeting by those reached with a pamphlet, webcast, or missionary you supported through prayers and offerings: *Welcome, I heard...*
- We serve to God's glory. Impact not fully seen - keep us humble
- Having redeemed you, Jesus calls you to steward your life of relationships - he powerfully use you to make a difference.
 - Called not to wander or stroll through life. We're on a mission.
- Wake up and be wise. Use your time for this eternal purpose. It lasts!

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❖ Wake up. Steward your relationship with your master.

- Common human delusion: *We can be our own masters.*
- Whatever you value above all - you live for - you're its servant.
- The Triune God is our Lord - our rightful Master.
 - ♦ He has a double claim on us. He made us. He redeemed us (expensive!)
 - ♦ Through him we have life. In him we live. This is the one vital relationship for life - eternal life: God is my Master/Lord.
 - If he is not your Master, he can't save you from yourself. You're dead.
- Sin: living for something created, rather than the Creator himself.
 - ♦ Delusion of 2 Masters: *in-name-only God + in-practice God.*
 - ♦ Your relationship is with the *in-practice God*. Respect, love, rely on
- Worldly wealth is a common false god - the real master
 - ♦ Christians sensitive to the Church teaching about wealth and its stewardship need to consider, are they protecting their *in-practice God*?
 - ♦ Wealth is a poor god. When it provides, you need to replace it. It doesn't take care of you. You are enslaved to prop it up. Then leave it behind.
 - ♦ Only the living God can rescue, protect, provide, & welcome us into his eternal home. Even welcome us - body and soul - at the resurrection.
 - Stewarding and treasuring this relationship now is eternal life.
 - Living as his steward is the most honored position in the universe.
 - It's common sense - wise - clever to steward all toward God's eternal purposes. The impact is forever - for us and others.

Jesus gets our attention with this parable. You believe in his gift of eternal life. Then manage your life like you believe it and treasure eternal life.

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