

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager Luke 16:1-17

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 First summer sermon topical request – deal with difficult parable
- 0.2 Preaching is about connecting God’s thoughts with our lives...incl. this story

1.0 Parables – The Big Picture

- 1.1 Who is the audience? Here – the Pharisees (cf. all of ch.15 + 16:14)
- 1.2 A parable (Grk. *parabolh*, Heb. *marshal*) involves a likeness or metaphor
- 1.3 Basic approaches: parable w/ one purpose (e.g. prodigal son); allegory has multiple purposes (e.g. four soils), simile/object lesson (e.g. pearl) & maxim (e.g. “blind...”)
- 1.4 Parables work best with what is simple and familiar

2.0 This Parable – The Particulars

- 2.1 Shady business dealing universal – especially when handling another’s resources
- 2.2 Jesus acknowledges worldly cleverness, even the cleverness of dishonesty (v.8)
- 2.3 Managing things implies capability of serving in the Kingdom (vv.10-12)
- 2.4 Yet extra application: two masters – wealth *or* Kingdom (vv.13-15 // Mt.6:24)

3.0 Applying this Parable Today

- 3.1 If shrewdness counts in this world, then look ahead to eternity...and plan *now*.
- 3.2 It is always good to fear & respect God, and to *run* to Christ for grace & mercy
- 3.3 ‘Shrewd as serpents, honest as doves’ (Matt.10:16) = acquaintance *with* world, not *of* it
- 3.4 Help your children learn to manage money & things
- 3.5 Good news of Kingdom: people ‘force their way in’ (‘holy violence’; v.16)

Next week (July 25) – Hosea: Prone to Wander
August 1 – Stresses on the Early Church (Acts)
August 8 & 15 – Other Sermon Requests