

A Bad Man's Good Example

Pharisees accuse Jesus – Lk.15

Jesus turns to disciples – Lk.16

1. The most misunderstood parable?
2. We can learn from bad men.

I. What Is A Steward?

Steward has charge of family affairs, business, etc.

- Gn.24:2-13, Eliezer – Abraham
- Gn.39:4, Joseph – Potiphar
- Lk.12:42, manage household / estate
- 1 Co.4:1-2, God requires faithfulness
- 1 Pt.4:10, God's stewards

Position afforded great opportunity for dishonesty

I. What Is A Steward?

II. Why Did Jesus Praise
This Steward?

1-2: had to account for misuse of goods

- Thought he could get away with dishonesty?
- Dismissed as steward.
- Jesus uses dishonest manager to teach spiritual lesson?

–Mt.10:16

God can use bad men to teach good example without endorsing their evil.

3: thought about his situation

He is deceitful, but not to himself–

1. In possession of wealth today
2. Will lose it soon
3. Must provide for that time
4. Only way is to use wealth he has now

He cannot dig

He is ashamed to beg

4: resolution: must act now
to prepare for future

When he loses everything
friends will receive him

5-7: put his plan into action

1. Acted quickly, 5-6.
2. Put great importance on securing his future. This comes first.

8: commended? WHY?

- NOT because he was dishonest.
Ga.6:7.
- HIS lord commended him.
- BECAUSE he acted 'shrewdly'
[Mt.10:16]
 - Prepared for future
 - Acted quickly

9: you also make friends 'by'
unrighteous mammon . . .

- If we use our worldly resources
rightly . . .

1. When our possessions are gone,
welcomed into eternal home.

2. Illustrated –

a. Positive: Mt.25:31-46

b. Negative: Lk.12:13-21

Rabbis: 'The rich help the poor
in this world, but the poor help
the rich in the world to come.'

- If rightly . . .

1. When our possessions are gone,
welcomed into eternal home.

2. Illustrated –

- a. Positive: Mt.25:31-46

- b. Negative: Lk.12:13-21

10-12: 'little things mean a lot'

- If faithful in least . . .
- If unjust in least . . .
 - If not faithful in unrighteous mammon . . .
 - If not faithful in what is another man's . . .

I. What Is A Steward?

II. Why Did Jesus Praise This Steward?

III. What Can We Learn
From The Steward?

1. Sinners often show more preparation for this life than Christians do for eternal life, 3-4, 8.

- Do we bypass opportunities to do good?
- What if we worked as hard for eternal success as sinners for earthly success?
 - 1. Insurance
 - 2. Farmer
 - 3. Athlete
 - 4. Christian. Lk.13:24; 2 Co.12:15

2. Time for us to prepare for eternity is now, 3-6.

- **Must face same facts as steward**

1. We have wealth today, Ac.4:32; 1 Co.10:26.

2. We will lose it soon.

3. Must provide for that time.

4. Must prepare for then with wealth today, 1 Tim.6:17-19.

2. Time for us to prepare for eternity is now, 3-6.

- Face same facts as steward
- If we improperly use lesser, cannot expect greater
 1. Our time, Ep.5:16
 2. Our money, 1 Co.16
 3. Our talents, Mt.25:14-30

3. It is wise to act promptly, 6

- The worst funeral . . .
- Judgment parables:

Not sins of
commission

Sins of
omission