

slaughter. There is a fine line to be walked when it comes to sheltering ourselves from the ways of the world and being wise enough to contend with those same ways of the world. This is particularly important in rearing our children in the faith. What is the best way to become more shrewd in our dealings with those who present distraction and road blocks to our faith? Contemplate the balance of living as Christ's disciples and being wise enough to deal with the distractions and temptations of this world. Write your reflections here.

Thursday, September 25

Read Luke 16:1-15 focusing on verse 9 in the passage. While the message focused on the Greek word *adikia* often translated as "dishonest." *Adikia* can mean "injustice" or "unrighteousness."

In the context of verse 9, this indicates that wealth in the present world is part of an unjust system that oppresses the poor. Therefore, giving it to the poor is the proper antidote." This is an ancient Jewish principle illustrated by the saying, "The rich help the poor in this world, but the poor help the rich in the world to come." It was a Jewish belief that charity given to the poor would stand to a person's credit in the world to come. What do you think? Write your ideas here.

Friday, September 26

The parable of the Dishonest Manager or Shrewd Manager is a very difficult parable from which to tease out meaning and lessons of our lives. At the very least we should be inspired by the managers initiative as we seek to wise to the ways of the world. What are the best "take aways" from this parable for you? Which have meaning for you live today? In today's world? Meditate on these questions and write your reflections here.

Message Notes September 21, 2025

*Making Cents of Shrewdness**

- I. In *The Wall Street Journal* article titled, "Googling Dad's Assets," Frank Robert writes on how children are checking out their parent's assets and _____.
 - A. A little exploration of the internet reveals that finding someone's _____ worth on the Internet is increasingly _____.
 - B. Timothy Merrill, wrote, "Had the Internet been around in New Testament times, the _____ figure in Jesus' parable of the _____ manager would surely have used it to his advantage as a kid."
 1. The central character of the manager is certainly _____!
 2. The _____ are also rascals as they became _____ to the manager's scheme to cheat the rich man out of his profits
 3. It has even been suggested that the _____ is a rascal himself as it was possible that he is an absentee owner of the business.
- II. I have never met anyone who said that this parable of the shrewd or dishonest manager is their _____.
 - A. Let's see what _____ we can discover from this parable and Jesus' commentary on it.
 1. First, Jesus is talking to his disciples and we find that the master _____ the manager for his shrewdness.
 2. The fact that Jesus's audience is his disciples makes us wonder just what Jesus is trying to _____ his followers.

*Luke 16:1-15

B. Jesus himself seems to have attached no fewer than three _____ to this parable.

1. The first of Jesus' interpretations is, "for the children of this _____ are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of _____."
2. The second lesson Jesus – verse 9: "And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of _____ wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes."
3. Third, there are Jesus' words, "Whoever is faithful in a very _____ is faithful also in _____; and whoever is dishonest in a very _____ is dishonest also in _____."

- III. If nothing else, this dishonest manager demonstrates _____, and when put to the _____ purposes, _____ is a good thing.
- A. After Jesus made his comments on the parable, we learn that the Pharisees, lovers of _____, were also present and listening to Jesus.
 - B. What I believe Jesus is saying is, "All of you, no matter where you are on the economic ladder, should _____ the economy of God's kingdom, and be faithful with however _____ or _____ you have."

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, September 22

Were you surprised at the amount of personal information that is available on the internet. That information may be personal but it is not private! The 2007 article titled "Googling Dad's Assets" is a wake-up call to have conversations within our families about what information is appropriate for our children to know. We may well wonder why children want to know the worth of their parents. What do you think? At what age should we share our financial information with our children? Certainly as parents age, it may be necessary for children to know about their parents' finances, but when and how that information is shared is important. Contemplate these thoughts and write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, September 23

Read Luke 16:1-8. We are told that Jesus is speaking with his disciples. Dr. William Barclay wrote, "This is a difficult parable to interpret. It is a story about as choice a set of rascals as one could meet anywhere." As pointed out in the message, everyone is a suspected rascal! This is a particularly difficult parable because the surprise ending involved the rich man commending the dishonest ways of the manager. Unlike the Parable of the Good Samaritan where the despised Samaritan is a hero, the manager isn't brought to justice or punished in any way. This parable points to the lack of integrity and brokenness in our world. What do you think? Does this parable make you uncomfortable? Disappointed? Angry? Write your reactions to this parable here.

Wednesday, September 24

Read Luke 16:1-15. As soon as Jesus concludes this parable, he makes the comment that the children of this age are more shrewd than the children of the light. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns about wolves in sheep's clothing and the Prophet Isaiah talks about the Messiah as a suffering servant, like a lamb led to