

June 13, 2021
Luke 16:1-15

The Shrewd Manager

Introduction

A most perplexing parable

Why?

Question # 1-What is the identity of the original audience?

Jesus

Disciples (probably more than the 12)

Scribes and Pharisees

Question # 2-What is the problem question or circumstance that prompted the parable?

Question # 3-What is the natural meaning of the parable?

Main character-a manager who wasted the possessions of his master (1-2)

The manager's problem-soon to be out of a job

Not strong enough to dig and is ashamed to beg (3)

Make friends who would help him when he would lose his job (4)

The first debtor (5-6)

The second debtor (7)

The master's response (commendation) (8)

Question # 4-What is the main point of the parable?

An unexpected conclusion

Question # 5-What is the actual and/or the intended response of the hearers?

Question # 6-What interpretation did Jesus give to the parable?

Three applications for the disciples (9-13)

1). Money and how it relates to others (9)

2). Money and how it relates to themselves (10-12)

3). Money and how it relates to God (13)

Questions for discussion

1. Why are there so many difficulties in interpreting this parable?
2. Why would Jesus use a bad example to teach a good lesson?
3. How can you as a believer use your possessions including money to prepare for the future?
4. How might your consideration of this parable influence what you give to the work of the Lord? (time, talent, possessions, witnessing, prayer, Bible study, etc.)