

Sunday, September 18, 2022
15 Pent Lectionary 25, Year C

Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household. Glory to you, O Lord

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

OPEN

- Which job would best fit your personality: Ringmaster at the Circus? Owner of a video store? Construction worker? Librarian? Skydiving instructor? Gourmet chef? Church Pastor?
- Which of these jobs would least fit? Why?

DIG

- Why would it be important for Jesus’ disciples to hear this parable?
- In what crisis does the manager find himself? What plan does he devise? In light of this deceit, why does the owner commend the manager (v. 8)?
- How does Jesus summarize this parable (v. 9)?
- What do you think he’s commending here? How do verses 10-12 help you understand his point?
- What’s the problem with trying to serve two masters (v. 13)?
- What characterizes the attitude of the Pharisees who are listening in? How does he use the parable to speak to them (v. 15)?

REFLECT

- How do you view your money: (a) It's mine, keep your hands off? (b) It's my creditors? (c) It's God's - I just manage it? Why? How could you use it for the sake of the kingdom?
- Who (or what) are some of the masters you've served in the past? What masters scream at you for allegiance now? How do you deal with these voices in light of your commitment to Christ?