

WORD

⁸*“The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”* **LUKE 16:8,9**

(Read **LUKE 16:1-13**.)

In the parable of the dishonest manager, Jesus recounts how a manager who was recently dismissed from his post gained the favor of his employer by shrewdly making use of what he had. From this story, we can gain valuable principles that can help bring people to the knowledge of the gospel. In this lesson, we will learn three things we can leverage to help advance God’s kingdom.

1 Position

He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager . . .” **LUKE 16:1**

The dishonest manager made use of his position to gain favor from his master’s debtors, and he succeeded in his task (Luke 16:5-7). In the same way, we can make use of our current standing—whether as students, employees, or homemakers—as a blessing to other people, and to advance God’s kingdom. Ultimately, who is our Master, and what does He enable us to do? (Philippians 2:13)

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2 Time

³*“And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management 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 removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’”*

LUKE 16:3,4

Instead of resting on his laurels and moping about his unemployment, the dishonest manager made use of his time by taking stock of what he could do, and quickly setting about the task of collecting from his master’s debtors. Consequently, God gives all of us twenty-four hours a day to go about our work—and we can maximize this resource to advance His kingdom. We must also remember that every effort we make into preaching the gospel will have an impact on eternity. How does God’s Word encourage us to *number our days* (Psalm 90:12)? What is its fruit?

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3 Relationships

⁸*“The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”*

LUKE 16:8,9

The manager leveraged his relationships he built with his master’s debtors, and this made him win back his job. We can also build key relationships with people whom we can preach the gospel, just as Jesus Himself was a *friend of sinners* (Matthew 11:19). How did you hear the gospel? How did this person build a relationship with you?

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