

GOD'S BEEN GOOD TO US - *HANDLE RESOURCES WELL*

Luke 16:1-13

- ***In what ways has the Lord blessed me in my life?***
- **The Lord wants to bless us in many ways in our lives, which is one reason He spent a lot of time talking about money and possessions.**
- Jesus - **"***What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?"* (Luke 9:25)
- **Jesus' parable, *The Shrewd Manager,* explains to us the importance of being a good manager of the "wealth" that God has given to each of us.**
- *"Jesus told this story to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money."* (Luke 16:1)
- **The Lord owns everything, and everything we have is a gift from Him (Psalm 24:1, James 1:17).**
- ***What steps can we take to be "good managers" of resources God entrusts to us?***

Good Managers Are People Who Choose To Be:

CAREFUL WITH THEIR RESOURCES

- *"One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money."* (Luke 16:1)
- **To be careful with assets we need to live by a budget; and a budget is planning where our money will go instead of wondering where it went.**
- *"Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds."* (Proverbs 27:23)
- **Budgeting well includes: 1) giving to God first (Proverbs 3:9), 2) preparing for the future second (Proverbs 6:6-8, 21:5, 21:20), 3) living within our means (Proverbs 11:24-28), 4) attending to our assets and liabilities (Luke 14:28), and 5) evaluating what can be done differently (James 1:5).**

- “A good plan is to set aside 10% of our money for the Lord, set aside 10% of our money for the future, and live on 80% of our income.” - Anonymous

Good Managers Are People Who Choose To Be:

RESOURCEFUL WITH THEIR RESOURCES

- *“The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg...The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd.”* (Luke 16:3,8)
- **Good managers have an accurate assessment of the gifts, talents, abilities and assets they have at their disposal.**
- *“Jesus told His disciples, ‘Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.’ So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.” (*John 6:12-13)
- **The Lord can do more with scraps and leftovers than people can do with the best ingredients in the world.**

Good Managers Are People Who Choose To Be:

FAITHFUL WITH THEIR RESOURCES

- Jesus - *“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. . . . And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?”* (Luke 16:10-12)
- ***What evidence is there that I have been faithful with resources?***
- *“A person put in charge as a manager must be faithful.”* (1 Corinthians 4:2)
- **We won’t be faithful with God’s blessings if we constantly complain that we don’t have enough.**
- Paul - *“I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”* (Philippians 4:11-13)
- **Grateful people are faithful people.**

Good Managers Are People Who Choose To Be:

PURPOSEFUL WITH THEIR RESOURCES

- Jesus - *“The manager was wasting his employer’s money. So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired. . . . If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?’”* (Luke 16:1-2, 11)
- **Heaven is going to be a wonderful place and experience for all who make it there - but especially for those who have been faithful servants of the Lord.**

- Jesus - *"The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together."* (Matthew 25:21)

Good Managers Are People Who Choose To Be:

<u>MINDFUL</u> THEY WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT

- *"So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'* (Luke 16:2)
- **We will one day face God and He will hold us accountable and reward us based upon how we managed the resources we were given in this world.**
- *"Each of us will give a personal account to God."* (Romans 14:12)
- **We don't know when we will be called upon to give an account of how we've lived and managed God's resources; but knowing that day will come can motivate us to change the way we manage what we have been given.**
- Jesus - *"I assure you that when the . . .Son of Man sits upon His glorious throne…many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then."* (Matthew 19:28-30)

- Jesus - *"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."* (Luke 16:13)
- ***What are some changes I need to make to better manage my resources?***
- Jesus - *"The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together."* (Matthew 25:21)