The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

MAIN THOUGHT Jesus found one praiseworthy quality in a dishonest person – he planned ahead for his future.

THE FOOLISH MANAGER (1-2).

• A steward does not own the wealth himself, but manages it (1 Cor. 4:2).
• This steward forgot this and became a PRODIGAL steward by WASTING (spreading around; dissipating) his master’s wealth (15:30).
• We will all give an account one day of our actions (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10).
• We are stewards of God’s WEALTH (Deut. 8:17-18). It begins with TITHING.

| The THIEF says, “What is yours is mine – I’ll take it!” |
| The SELFISH MAN says, “What is mine is mine – I’ll keep it!” |
| The CHRISTIAN says, “What is mine is a gift from God – I’ll share it!” |

• We are stewards of TIME (Eph. 5:15-17).
• We are stewards of GIFTS and ABILITIES (1 Pet. 4:10).
• We are stewards of the GOSPEL (1 Thess. 2:4) to be TREASURED (2 Cor. 4:7) to be GUARDED (1 Tim. 6:20; Jude 3) and INVESTED in others (2 Tim. 2:2).

THE WISE MANAGER (3-8).

• Knowing he would lose his job, he wised up to change his evil ways. He was wise in knowing that when tough times came all he would have was his friends for he was unable to do manual labor.
• He SHREWDLY (8) offered discounts on what was owed to his master. On the one hand he collected what he could for his master and on the other made friends who would later help him in his need.
• He was not absolved from his guilt of dishonesty and was likely fired, but he was commended for his SHREWDSNESS (Matt. 10:16 – prudent in thinking).
• In other words, he was thinking ahead about his FUTURE and what he could do to secure a better FUTURE (Jer. 29:11; Heb. 11:40).

THE WISE CHRISTIAN (9-15).

• WIN FRIENDS FOR THE LORD (9). People will never accept your Christ until they accept you. Win them over with kindness and by helping them.

• BE TRUSTWORTHY (10-12). In all things – little and big, small and large – we are to be honest in the sight of the Lord and of man (2 Cor. 8:21).

• BE SINGLE MINDED IN LOVING GOD NOT MONEY (13-15). Many love money and not God (2 Tim. 3:2). This was certainly the Pharisees (14-15). We are to seek first the kingdom of God and everything else will be added to you (Matt. 6:33).