

Shrewd?
Storyteller #16
Gary Chappel - July 26, 2025

Luke 16:1-15

"...The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. ..."

Luke 16:8 (NIV)

This Story...

- » Challenging to understand
- » Continuation of Chapter 15
 - Same audience
- » A simple message is obvious

What is clear in this story?

1. I am a manager of God's things.

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ..."

Luke 16:1 (NIV)

2. My master is concerned with how I manage.

(* Jesus is my master!)

"...So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'..."

Luke 16:2 (NIV)

And the Lord replied, "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. ⁴³ If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. ⁴⁴ I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. ⁴⁵ But what if the servant thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? ⁴⁶ The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful. ..."

Luke 12:42-46 (NLT)

3. Jesus values being shrewd.

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ..."

Matthew 10:16 (NIV)

Shrewd = careful in providing for the future.

4. Jesus says I should value what God values.

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.²⁵ He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight."

Luke 16:14-15 (NIV)

Where are you at?