



The Storyteller: The Shrewd Manager

LUKE 16:1-15 | JANUARY 2 & 3, 2016

We begin the New year back in Luke focused on a parable that reminds us not simply to make resolutions for the year ahead, but to use every resource at our disposal to plan for the distant and much greater future we all face. This mysterious parable of the Shrewd Manager reminds us that planning for the future helps shape our present...after all, we are called to live today in light of eternity.

WITH THE GROUP



LEANING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

What do you hope will be different in your life for the year ahead?



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

Consider these words from Psalm 24, "the earth is the Lord's and all it contains" and 1 Chronicles 29, "Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." How do you feel about the idea that everything "you own" is really God's? How would you respond to someone who believed they worked hard and all that they have earned is for their own pleasure and joy?

What lies at the root of debt (national, personal, consumer, relational)? What lies are believed about debt? How do you feel about debt?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

Through the sermon what challenged you, excited you or intrigued you the most?

Read Philippians 2:1-11. How do the actions here demonstrate Jesus' generosity and acting in the best interests of eternity? What do you learn about God's love through Jesus' action?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

What is meant by the expression storing up treasure in heaven? How is this done practically? What are 5 things someone could do today to "store up" for tomorrow?

Pastor Mike taught, "money will always fail to deliver what you want – no matter how much you have." What do you think of this statement? Does the answer vary based on how much you have? How important is this belief to the entire lesson of the sermon?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read and outline the book of Malachi. In three sentences, summarize the themes of the book, particularly with regard to stewardship and generosity.

GRADUATE LEVEL

Consider doing an internet search of C.S. Lewis' sermon "Weight of Glory" and then reading it. How do you feel about his big idea that you have never met a mere mortal? Has this idea taken root in you? How do you feel about your own eternity and the prospect of living in it? What are some of the other ideas that strike you through this sermon?