

LIFE GROUP LEADER HANDOUT

Message Date: October 25, 2020

Message Title: The Shrewd, The Stingy and the Sanctified

Preached by: Paul Sandberg, Executive Director, Messiah's Outreach

Scripture--Various Passages in Luke, 16:1-9 shown

He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. 2 And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' 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. 4 I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' 7 Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' 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. 9 And 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.

Main Idea--How We Handle Our Resources in This Life Prepares Us for the Life to Come

The Manager above was Shrewd--giving up his commission to gain favor. If the dishonest guy prepared for his future, so should we.

The Unjust Judge is Compared to God--a comparison of contrast. If the bad guy does good, shouldn't the good guy do better?

Sanctified Managers--Are wise as serpents and innocent as doves. (Matthew 10:16)

A Sure Foundation is Built on Jesus Christ, not the USA.

*"...and he [the Lord] will be the stability of your times,
abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge;
the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.*

Application--

1. Have you considered yourself the OWNER of all that is in your life? Or do you see the things you have as being on loan from God and they were given to you to manage?
2. How does thinking of your family, job, financial resources and possessions as all belonging to God and you being the manager, change your approach to these things?
3. As you observe the world around you and struggle to understand the times we live in, how can you become more of a Sanctified Manager?

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Here are the next three principles from “**Nine Principles of Relational Evangelism**” by Randall Neighbour

4. Avoid Duplicity

It's important that you speak to your Christian and pre-Christian friends about the same things and in the same way. Some Christians share deep spiritual things with other Christians, but not with their unchurched or unbelieving friends. They think, "My lost friend just wouldn't understand, so I won't talk about my spiritual struggles or victories around them." This may sound like common sense, but it does not draw lost people to Christ through you!

To see a friend come to Christ, you must speak to the person about what God is saying to you and what you are talking to God about each day. When you openly share how you and God relate to one another, your lost friend will quickly see a spiritual contrast between their perception of God and your relationship with God through Christ.

Discussion questions:

- *Do you find yourself guilty of withholding spiritual struggles or challenges you face from your unchurched friends?*
- *Do you see the power in sharing the same things with unbelievers, even if they don't initially understand what you're talking about?*

5. Give and Take Refrigerator Rights with Unchurched Friends

Many Christians claim to have friendships with the lost, but they rarely have the person in their home or spend time in the home of the lost person. If you want to legitimize a friendship, invite your lost friends to your house frequently enough for them to freely take "refrigerator rights" and grab a can of pop out of your fridge without feeling like a guest.

When they reciprocate, you have reached a level of relationship that few unrelated people achieve in our world. This is the depth of friendship required to reach someone for Christ with relational evangelism. (If group members say they are too busy for this, challenge them to rethink their priorities. Being too busy to relate to others is not Christ-like. Jesus spent a lot of quality time with people!)

Discussion questions:

- *If we were to look at your refrigerator door, would we find an unchurched friend's fingerprints on the handle?*
- *Are your fingerprints on his or her fridge door?*

6. Pray for Yourself

When you pray, don't spend all your time asking God to bring conviction to your lost friends. It's just as powerful to petition God to show you how he sees your lost friends so you can treat them differently.

Discussion questions:

- *How often do you pray for yourself as it pertains to being shaped by God to see people the way he sees people? (If the answer is overwhelmingly "not enough!" then stop and pray this way in groups of three right now.)*

Challenge the group members to pray for themselves daily, asking God to show them how he sees the people all around them instead of how they view them.