

GROWTH GROUPS

May 6, 2012

Luke 16:1-13

Conversation Starter:

If you were God and were looking for a return on what you invested in people, what would you be looking for?

Understanding:

Jesus tells the parable of the shrewd manager in order to make one specific point. Namely, Jesus wants people to be aware of the “little bit of time and little bit of opportunity” they have to secure an eternal future. This “time and opportunity” is entrusted to people by God in order that they show themselves trustworthy and worthy of being entrusted with even more.

Questions:

1. Spend some time rereading the parable. What was the time and opportunity that the manager leveraged in order to secure a future for himself? What “time and opportunity” are we given to leverage for our eternal future? How does thinking about this concept that Jesus taught make you feel?
2. Verse 10 calls us to be trustworthy with what God has entrusted to us. How is leveraging the “time and opportunity” entrusted to us by God for OUR eternal future an act of being trustworthy?
3. In verse 13 Jesus offers a strong warning that we cannot have two masters. In other words, if we are mastered by our money Jesus cannot, at the same time, be Lord of our life. This is similar to the warning given by Jesus to the rich after engaging the “rich young ruler” in Matthew 19:24. Why do you think Jesus says it is so difficult to be materially wealthy and devoted to Christ? What steps could we take to ensure that we are not “mastered” by money?

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