

IN THIS TIME OF ECONOMIC CONCERN, WHAT DOES JESUS SAY ABOUT MONEY?

**CHRIST'S
INVESTMENT
ADVICE**



THE SHREWD MANAGER

Luke 16:1-15

8th March 2009

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- **Jesus told his disciples:**
“There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 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.’ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg—I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’”

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- **So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' " 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.' "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' " 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.' "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.**

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- **I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?**

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- **“No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”**
The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.”

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Three lessons in handling money

- Be alert
- Be generous
- Be trustworthy

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“The Message” gives the key

- Luke 16:8-9: “Now here’s a surprise. The master praised the crooked manager. And why? Because he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise people are smarter in this regard than law-abiding citizens. They are on constant alert, looking for angles, surviving by their wits. I want you to be smart in the same way – but for what is right – using every adversity to stimulate you to creative survival, to concentrate your attention on the bare essentials, so you’ll live, really live, and not just complacently get by on good behaviour.”

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How not to be alert with money

- Sleeping into waste
- Sleeping into vulnerability
- Sleeping into debt

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The CAP Money Course



Being generous with money

- Our own money and not others’!
- Generosity begins with God:
 - “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it”. (Malachi 3:10)

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- “You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” (Deuteronomy 8:17-18)
- And it continues with one another:
 - Luke 6:33 “And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ do that.”

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- Luke 12:33 “Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted.”
- Proverbs 19:17 “He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done.”
- Luke 16:9 “I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”

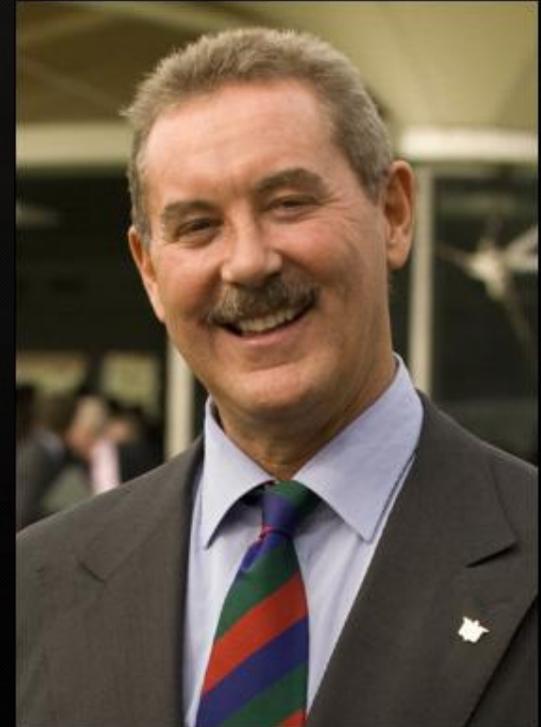
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Being trustworthy

- The principal-agent problem in finance

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A few “agents”



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Being trustworthy

- Solving the principal-agent problem
 - Contracts and remuneration
 - Reputation
 - Relationships
 - Love and loyalty?!*

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- Jesus' resolution – put the relationship with God first
 - “No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” (Luke 16:13)
- Be trustworthy to God....
 - “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?” (Luke 16:10-11)

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- ...and don't compartmentalise
 - “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.” (Luke 16:15)

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The shrewd manager

- Which side of the fence will you fall?

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