

## The Parable of the Dishonest Manager Luke 16:1 – 13

This parable immediately follows the Parable of Lost Sons and appears to may have been taught at the same time. Most commentators agree that this parable is difficult to understand. That makes it all the more interesting to study.

Let's start with the parable itself by reading **Luke 16:1 – 8** and all get on the same page by noting:

To whom is the parable addressed? \_\_\_\_\_

Who does the manager represent? \_\_\_\_\_

Who does the master represent? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the basic story line? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the conundrum or seeming disconnect in this parable that makes it difficult to understand and apply?

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To help resolve the conundrum, what would be the reaction of the debtors to the master for getting a discount on what they owed? And what would be their reaction if the master reversed the actions of the manager and reinstated the original debt?

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Dr. Just in his *Concordia Commentary* on **Luke** states:

*If one considers the parable from [master's] perspective, then the focus of the parable is not on the dishonesty of the [manager], but on the mercy of the [master].*

Do you agree or disagree with the proposition that the parable is about the mercy of the master? Why or why not?

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**Luke 16:9 – 13** sheds additional light on what Jesus meant by this parable.

What is meant by verse 9?

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What are the general points Jesus is making in these verses?

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To what “things” has God called us to be good stewards?

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What does it look like in our daily lives and attitudes when we serve money over God?

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What is the meaning of verse 13?

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