

Managing Life (Part 2)

Luke 16:1-9; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 1-13-19

The Rich Master

Jesus is the 'rich Master' we must give an accounting to.

¹ Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a **rich man** who had a manager, and this *manager* was reported to him as squandering his possessions. ² And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? **Give an accounting of your management**, for you can no longer be manager.’ ³ 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; I am ashamed to beg. – Luke 16:1-3

One day we will give an account of our ‘game’ (life) to our Lord. (Romans 14:12)

This parable is meant to help us prepare for the review of our lives! How does this parable help us prepare to meet our Rich Master?

Sinful Mismanagement

We are called to rest in Jesus for our sinful mismanagement of our lives, including our money and possessions.

This requires that I see my mismanagement and what it deserves and that I see what Jesus has done for me.

¹ Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this *manager* was reported to him as **squandering his possessions**. – Luke 16:1

And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there **he squandered his estate with loose living**. – Luke 15:13

Sin is mismanagement of what belongs to God. (Matthew 25:24-30) God's grace forgives sins and frees from sin. (1 John 1:9)

We are to manage our lives to love God with all that we are and all that we have. We are to manage our lives to love others just as we love ourselves. (Mark 12:28-31) We have not come even close to doing either of those! That's why Jesus came – to manage to love God and others perfectly and then to die for our mismanagement!

So what is our management supposed to look like?

Managing to Love

We are called to love God and others by managing to love through wise decision making regarding money and time and opportunities.

⁴ I know what I shall do, so that when I am removed from the management people will welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ And he summoned each one of his master's debtors, and he began saying to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' And 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?' And he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He *said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' – Luke 16:4-7

Friendship with God is doing His will (John 15:14). Serving others *is* serving ourselves (in the best sense). (Ephesians 5:28; Matthew 10:42) Managing money is managing life. (1 Timothy 6:9-10, 17-19)

What things need to have their proper place of prominence in our lives?

Five Big Rocks:

1. Loving Your God
2. Loving Your Church
3. Loving Your Family
4. Loving Your Workplace
5. Loving Your World

Are you asking the hard questions about your life and whether God is pleased with your management of it?

Eternal Decision Making

We are called to live in light of the eternal future as we make decisions in the temporal present.

⁸ And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light. ⁹ And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings.

God's heart for us to pursue our good. (John 15:11) Living well now requires living for the future. (Matthew 6:19-21)

We can find peace amid regret while seeking to be better managers of the life God has given us. (1 Timothy 1:15-16; 1 Peter 2:24-25)