

Theme: The resources and riches of this world are God’s – not ours. As stewards of the gifts of God we must strive to serve Him such that we will be received into eternal dwellings by those who have been blessed by our use of those riches.

Background and Introduction: *“You Can’t Take It With You”*

I. Wasting the Master’s Possessions

A. Called to account (1,2)

1. Charges?

- Not enough evidence to convict
- “Wasting” – just like the younger son of 15:13

2. You’re fired!

- Prepare for the audit!

B. The servant’s dilemma (3)

1. His career is over!

2. Needs some way to provide for himself

II. Preparing for the End (of his employment)

A. A shrewd plan (4-7)

1. The goal

- To be welcomed in this world
- Put the master’s “debtors” in his debt

2. The means

- Reduce the accounts payable
- Signs new contracts

B. The manager’s praise?

1. The expectation

- To catch a thief

2. The commendation (8a)

- A shrewd, dishonest man of business

III. Spending the Master’s Possessions Wisely

A. A better plan

1. Looking beyond this world

a. The sons of this world?

- Work hard to acquire the things of the world

b. Sons of Light?? (8b)

- Working hard to acquire the things of eternity?

2. Welcomed into eternity!!
 - a. *They* – could be God Himself
 - God will indeed *receive* us (Hebrews 9:15; 1 Peter 5:4)
 - b. *They* – are certainly the friends in His Kingdom
 - Romans 13:8

B. The faithful servant's riches (10-12)

1. Understand the Lord's economy
 - Temporal wealth is "little"
 - Eternal wealth is "great"
2. He is talking about money
 - Don't separate v10 from vv11 & 12
3. Loaned vs. owned
 - a. Loaned for a reason/purpose
 - To be used faithfully and honestly
 - b. A personal inheritance - 1 Peter 1:5,6

IV. Who Is Your Master? (13)

A. An uncompromising assertion

1. There is no "middle ground"
 - You will hate one and love the other
2. The danger of "Prosperity Preaching"
3. The tension we experience living in this world

B. A careful assessment

DO YOU...

1. Use your money with a "long term" view?

DO YOU...

2. Strive to be faithful and honest with your money and wealth?
 - The *amount* you give is not really the issue

DO YOU...

3. Know that it is God you are serving, and not yourself?
 - Because *in Christ* you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God?
 - Because you have been raised with him and your mind is set on things above? (Colossians 3:1-3)

If Jesus has called you "friend" – may God give you the grace to use what God has entrusted to you – to make friends who will assure a welcome for you into eternal dwellings!