



Story of My Life – Week 2– Parable of the Shrewd Manager
Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

Jesus told this story to his disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. ²So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'

³"The manager thought to himself, 'Now what? My boss has fired me. I don't have the strength to dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. ⁴Ah, I know how to ensure that I'll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.'

⁵"So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe him?' ⁶The man replied, 'I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.' So the manager told him, 'Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.'

⁷"And how much do you owe my employer?' he asked the next man. 'I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,' was the reply. 'Here,' the manager said, 'take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.'

⁸"The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. ⁹Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.

¹⁰"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. ¹¹And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? ¹²And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?

¹³"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

Luke 16:1-13

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.

The world and all its people belong to him."

Psalms 24:1

Reflection Questions:

- In one word, how would you describe the past week?
- What's one new way you experienced God in your everyday life this week?
- Read Jesus' parable and teaching in Luke 16:1-13. If you're with others, have someone read it out loud, slowly and listen. If you're alone, you can hear someone else read it on the Bible app – youversion.com. Read it or listen to it several times.
- What do you notice about listening to Jesus' story and his teaching? Where do you find yourself in this story?
- What surprises you? What comforts you? What challenges you?
- Eddie shared three glaring truths from this story. Look over them or have someone read them aloud:
 - Everything we manage belongs to someone else.
 - Every account we manage is temporary.
 - Temporary things are best used for eternal things.

Which of these is most difficult for you to remember and to practice? Why?

- Look over the practices below and discuss with a trusted spiritual friend how you plan to respond to Jesus' teaching.
- Melissa shared a piece of wisdom from Mary Kamau: "Hear what God is saying and do it immediately." Is there anything you sense God nudging you to do right away? Share it with someone and make a plan to act on it.
- Read Psalm 24:1. Let it be the springboard for your prayer today and throughout this week.

Practices:

- **Take some time to take Jesus' teaching to heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt you toward a next step.**
 - What are the specific things that God has entrusted to you?
 - Talk to God about those things – ask Him to show you specific areas of your life where you can grow in wisdom as a manager.
 - Ask God to give you His perspective on what He has given you and what is worth your investment.
- **Consider sponsoring a child through Missions of Hope:**
Go to <https://mohiafrica.org/sponsor/> to learn more and join other Westsiders who are partnering with the work of MOHI to bring hope to children and families in Kenya.
- **Listen to "Available" by Elevation Worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjlY4UKGI-Y>**
The worship team used this song as a response in the service. As you listen and worship, let the words become part of your prayer. Hold your hands in an open, upward position.

*Here I am with open hands
Counting on Your grace again
Less of me and more of You
I just wanna see You move
I hear You call
I am available*