

Keep The Endgame In Mind

Living the Liturgical Year

Luke 16:1-13

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

*And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. **Luke 16:8-9***

REFLECTION

This confusing passage, often called “the parable of the dishonest manager,” is disorienting because Jesus is commending someone who is acting immorally. Jesus does not commend the manager for lying about the amounts owed, but rather for his mindset for planning for the future. After all of the preaching that the disciples had heard by this point, perhaps Jesus felt the need to be more deliberately provocative so they would continue paying attention. **Why do you think Jesus commends the manager’s dishonest shrewdness?**

We have the regular opportunity to proclaim our promised future, made clear in scripture, through our sacraments of baptism and communion. **Baptism** is a declaration of a certain future where love and life will triumph over death. And every time we take **communion**, we declare that within the kingdom to come, Jesus will return again to make all things new. Living into these words that we recite together through these two sacraments can help us adjust the way we make decisions based on our certain future. **How can this promised future help you specifically re-think the way you make decisions?**

Making decisions based on a promised future also impacts the choices we make today about our money, wealth, and finances. It’s hard to get out of the mindset of making decisions that only impact us in the here-and-now. However, living with a kingdom mindset about our finances can create in us a joy and purpose as we impact this world. **How much do you typically think about things of the kingdom when you spend your money? How can this mindset help you specifically in your budget planning going forward?**