

The Teacher told us the parable about a wasteful manager who was shrewd enough as he lost his job to prepare for his future¹. I found it difficult to understand what He was trying to tell us about the subject of trust. On the one hand, the manager did not do his job well, but the man who employed him was impressed by how he “managed” his future. Perhaps Jesus was using the contrast of these ideas (trust and shrewdness) to make us think, and to make us realize that the children of the light need to be clever in their efforts to defeat the adversary and be welcomed into the presence of God².

But the Teacher’s main message was clear:

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”

The concept of trust is intimately connected our service. Those whom we serve can trust us.

Thus, Jesus followed His message with another:

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

You perhaps can “have” some of both masters, but you cannot truly serve both – the very nature of service and commitment polarizes us.

When I return in my thoughts to the Teacher’s main message, I consider that though God is so much greater than heaven and earth³, He believes strongly in very small things (the people that He created). He has such powerful love for us and will never lose us⁴! He can obviously be trusted with our souls!

We might think that we should only pray to God about big things, but the parable (looked at sort of in reverse) tells me that God can be trusted to talk to about small things as well. So we must pray constantly⁵ and open our hearts completely to Him⁶. Anything at all is fair game to talk to Him about, no matter how large or small!

1. Luke 16:1-15
2. Luke 16:8
3. Romans 11:33-34, Ephesians 3:16-19
4. from Mark Batterson, *Whisper*, p.27.
5. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
6. Philippians 4:6-7, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”; and 1 Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”