



Lessons from a Thief

Luke 16:1-13

Sermon Study Notes

Some commentators consider this the most difficult of Jesus' parables.

This parable is so puzzling that there's been discussion and debate over it for centuries.

Comparisons Between the Parable of the Prodigal Son and the Parable of the Dishonest Manager

1. Both have a noble master who demonstrates extraordinary grace to a wayward underling.
2. Both have a dishonorable character who wastes their master's resources.
3. Both have the wayward person reaching a moment of truth where they realize the mess they're in, and they come up with their own solution on how to fix it.
4. Both dishonorable characters count on one thing: the goodness and grace of the master.
5. Both deal with broken trust and the problems that result, and the way the master views this broken trust.

I. Jesus often appeals to unscrupulous characters to illustrate spiritual lessons from some aspect of their behavior.

II. We don't own anything; we just manage it.

III. Money doesn't provide security.

IV. We will give an account of our stewardship.

V. We don't measure up to God's standard.

VI. Our past doesn't have to determine our future.

VII. Sin begets sin.

The master has two options: demand full payment, or take the loss himself and enjoy his reputation as a generous man.

VIII. The one thing the dishonest manager knows is the generous character of the master.

IX. What we do today affects tomorrow.

Ultimately what we do today affects eternity. The only thing worse than being a dishonest manager is being a stupid one too.

X. The only good use of money, according to Jesus, is to affect eternity.

XI. If you're not faithful in the little things you won't be entrusted with big things.

XII. When it comes to serving God, think small.

XIII. The way you handle money demonstrates the way you regard eternity itself.

XIV. You either live for unrighteous wealth or you live for true riches.

XV. The gospel is the greatest wealth.

XVI. Your decisions emanate from the deity you worship.

There is no "Plan B," but Jesus is God's "Plan A," and if you know His character, you know He'll absorb the cost.