






Wisdom in the Gospels: Lessons from the Shrewd Manager



Explore wise stewardship through the Parable of the Shrewd Manager and gain practical insights on using worldly resources responsibly.

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Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day Bible study on the wisdom found in the Gospels, focusing specifically on the Parable of the Shrewd Manager in Luke 16:1–9. Often regarded as a puzzling teaching, this parable challenges us to reconsider how we view and use the resources God has entrusted to us. Jesus confronts the disciples with a story about a dishonest manager who, facing termination, acts shrewdly to secure his future. Though the manager's actions were ethically questionable, Jesus commends his prudence and draws a powerful lesson about faithfulness and foresight.

Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus emphasizing the importance of wisely managing what we have been given, especially in relation to eternal priorities. This Bible study will unpack the complexities of this parable, helping you understand its context and application in your life today. You will engage with scripture passages, devotional reflections, and thought-provoking questions designed to deepen your understanding and inspire practical action.

As you journey through these seven days, you will discover that being "shrewd" or wise is not about deceit but about strategic living in light of God's kingdom. You'll explore themes of stewardship, accountability, forgiveness, and foresight. The Gospels invite all believers to be responsible managers of worldly resources — using them not only for personal benefit but to advance God's purposes on earth.



May this study open your heart to new insights and empower you to live with purposeful wisdom, embracing God's guidance in every decision. Let us dive into the Gospel wisdom with open minds and ready hearts.





Day 1: Understanding the Parable



Day 1:  Understanding the Parable

Your Verse

Luke 16:1-9 NIV – Jesus teaches about the shrewd manager who acted wisely to secure his future.

Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 3:13 – "Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding,"*
- *Ecclesiastes 7:12 – "Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves those who have it."*



Day 1:  Understanding the Parable

Devotional: True Wisdom in Stewardship

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager is one of the most intriguing stories Jesus told. At first glance, the manager's dishonest actions seem wrong, but Jesus highlights his cleverness. This invites us to investigate what true wisdom looks like in God's kingdom. The manager recognized his problem and took immediate action using the resources available to him.

Jesus uses this story not to endorse dishonesty but to emphasize the urgency and creativity needed in stewarding what we have been given. The manager's prudence points to the need for us to think long-term and to use worldly resources in ways that honor God and benefit others. The parable encourages believers to be wise in managing earthly blessings to prepare for eternal outcomes.

As we begin this study, reflect on how you view the resources God has entrusted to you. Is there wisdom and foresight in how you use them? Are you aligned with God's purposes for your life and possessions? This day invites you to open your heart to God's call for shrewd stewardship in an unpredictable world.



Day 1:  Understanding the Parable

Reflect and Apply

1. What does it mean to be 'shrewd' in the context of this parable?

2. How do you currently manage the resources God has given you?

3. In what ways can worldly resources be used to advance God's kingdom?



Day 1:  Understanding the Parable

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you acted wisely with your resources.

2. Reflect on areas where you could be more prudent in stewardship.

3. List ways you can better align your management of resources with eternal values.



Day 1: 📖 Understanding the Parable

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for the gift of wisdom and the resources You entrust to me. Help me to understand what it truly means to be shrewd according to Your Word. Teach me to use all that I have with foresight and faithfulness, aligning my heart with Your purposes. May I be a wise steward, investing in what matters most for Your kingdom and eternal glory. *Guide my decisions and actions* so that I honor You daily with what You have given.





Day 2: 🐦 Faithful Over Little, Trusted With Much



Day 2: 🕊️ Faithful Over Little, Trusted With Much

Your Verse

Luke 16:10 NIV - "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 25:21 - "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."*
- *1 Corinthians 4:2 - "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."*



Day 2: 🐦 Faithful Over Little, Trusted With Much

Devotional: Faithfulness: Small Steps to Greater Trust

Jesus reminds us that faithfulness with small things leads to greater responsibility. The shrewd manager faced losing his position, yet his wise handling of even limited resources earned him commendation. This principle applies broadly in the Christian life: God's call on us begins with faithfulness in the small everyday things.

Faithfulness is not about the size of what we manage but about the heart and integrity we bring to our stewardship. Are you being trusted with little? Perhaps it's time to ask how you can serve better where you are—at work, in relationships, and with finances. God's kingdom expands as we demonstrate trustworthiness in all areas.

Use today to examine your faithfulness. Small acts of obedience and wise decision-making plant seeds that grow into larger opportunities to serve and glorify God. Your daily choices have eternal significance.



Day 2: 🐦 Faithful Over Little, Trusted With Much

Reflect and Apply

1. In what areas have you demonstrated faithfulness, no matter how small?

2. How does God view your stewardship over 'little' things?

3. What might God be calling you to manage more wisely today?



Day 2: 🐦 Faithful Over Little, Trusted With Much

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about small responsibilities you currently have and how you handle them.

2. List ways to increase your faithfulness in your daily life.

3. Identify any obstacles to being trustworthy and how to overcome them.



Day 2: 🕊️ Faithful Over Little, Trusted With Much

Prayer for Today

Father, teach me to be faithful in all things, big or small. Help me to see daily tasks and responsibilities as opportunities to glorify You and serve others. Strengthen my heart to remain trustworthy and consistent, knowing that faithfulness leads to greater purposes in Your kingdom. I desire to honor You in everything I steward.





Day 3: 💰 Using Worldly Wealth Wisely



Day 3: 💰 Using Worldly Wealth Wisely

Your Verse

Luke 16:9 NIV - "Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 19:17 - "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,"*
- *1 Timothy 6:17-19 - "Do good, be rich in good deeds, and be generous and willing to share."*



Day 3: 💰 Using Worldly Wealth Wisely

Devotional: Wealth as a Tool for Eternal Impact

Jesus teaches a challenging principle: use worldly resources to build eternal relationships. The shrewd manager's example highlights the importance of leveraging money and possessions not simply for personal gain but for kingdom impact.

What if you saw your wealth as a tool for friendship and generosity rather than just security or pleasure? The parable invites believers to use material blessings to bless others, create opportunities to share God's love, and lay up treasures in heaven.

Reflect today on your attitude toward money. Is it a tool for service, or has it become an end in itself? As you plan and spend, are you actively making choices that honor God and extend His grace to others? This shift in perspective can transform your entire approach to stewardship.



Day 3: 💰 Using Worldly Wealth Wisely

Reflect and Apply

1. How do you currently view and use your financial resources?

2. In what ways can you invest in eternal relationships through generosity?

3. What changes can you make to better steward wealth for God's kingdom?



Day 3: 💰 Using Worldly Wealth Wisely

Journaling Prompts

1. List ways you've used money or goods to bless others.

2. Write down practical steps to use your resources more intentionally.

3. Reflect on the eternal rewards promised for wise generosity.



Day 3: 💰 Using Worldly Wealth Wisely

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me to see wealth and possessions through Your eyes. Teach me to be generous, using what I have to bless others and advance Your kingdom. May my resources be evidence of my faith and love for You. Guide me to use worldly wealth with eternal purposes in mind, trusting Your provision and timing.





Day 4: Living with Eternal Perspective



Day 4: ⌚ Living with Eternal Perspective

Your Verse

Colossians 3:2 NIV - "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 6:19-21 - "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,"*
- *Philippians 3:20 - "Our citizenship is in heaven."*



Day 4: ⌚ Living with Eternal Perspective

Devotional: Eternal Focus in Daily Stewardship

Jesus calls us to live with eternity in mind, not distracted by passing earthly pursuits. The shrewd manager understood that earthly security was temporary and acted accordingly. Believers are likewise called to reorient their priorities and investments toward heaven.

Having an eternal perspective transforms how we approach life's decisions—financial, relational, and spiritual. It brings clarity to what truly matters and guards against being consumed by materialism. This mindset frees you to steward your resources with purpose, generosity, and joy.

Today, reflect on your long-term goals. Are they aligned with God's kingdom? Does your daily living reflect an investment in eternal values? As you meditate on this, ask God to reset your heart and mind toward His heavenly priorities.



Day 4: ⌚ Living with Eternal Perspective

Reflect and Apply

1. What are your primary priorities, earthly or eternal?

2. How does an eternal perspective influence your decisions?

3. Where might God be inviting you to refocus your heart and resources?



Day 4: ⌚ Living with Eternal Perspective

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe how an eternal perspective changes your view of possessions.

2. Write about specific life areas needing realignment with God's priorities.

3. List practical ways to keep heaven in mind daily.



Day 4: ⌚ Living with Eternal Perspective

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, fix my gaze on Your eternal kingdom. Help me to live intentionally with Heaven in view, surrendering earthly distractions. Teach me to invest my resources, time, and talents in ways that bring eternal fruit. May Your priorities become mine, and may I glorify You in all that I do.





Day 5: 🙏 Trusting God's Provision



Day 5: 🙏 Trusting God's Provision

Your Verse

Philippians 4:19 NIV - "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 6:25-26 - "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap... your heavenly Father feeds them."*
- *Psalms 34:10 - "The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing."*



Day 5: 🙏 Trusting God's Provision

Devotional: Balance Stewardship and Trust

Wise stewardship includes trusting God's provision for all our needs. The shrewd manager's actions show both prudence and reliance on what he had to work with, yet believers must trust that God supplies all that is truly needed.

God calls us to plan and act wisely but never to be anxious or greedy. Trusting Him frees us from fear and frees our resources to be used boldly in His service. When you face uncertainty, remember God's faithfulness in the past and His promise for the future.

Today, reflect on the balance between working diligently and resting in God's provision. How can trusting God more deepen your stewardship and generosity? Release worry, embrace faith, and step forward with confidence.



Day 5: 🙏 Trusting God's Provision

Reflect and Apply

1. Do you trust God to meet your daily needs? Why or why not?

2. How can trusting God impact your use of resources?

3. In what ways might worry hinder wise stewardship?



Day 5: 🙏 Trusting God's Provision

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time God provided unexpectedly.

2. Reflect on fears related to finances or resources.

3. List scriptures that encourage your trust in God.



Day 5: 🙏 Trusting God's Provision

Prayer for Today

God, I place my trust wholly in You. Help me to rely on Your provision and not to be anxious about tomorrow. Strengthen my faith and wisdom to steward well what You have given, knowing You are faithful to supply all my needs. Teach me peace and generosity rooted in Your abundant grace.





Day 6: Building Eternal Friendships



Day 6: 🧡 Building Eternal Friendships

Your Verse

Luke 6:35 NIV - "Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 18:24 - "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."*
- *1 John 3:17 - "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"*



Day 6: 🧡 Building Eternal Friendships

Devotional: Investing in Eternal Relationships

The parable encourages using resources to foster relationships that last beyond this life. True shrewdness is seen in generosity and kindness toward others, which builds eternal friendships in God's kingdom.

Generosity is an act of love that reflects God's heart and opens doors for ministry and support. Investing in others — especially those in need or those who may seem unlikely to repay — exemplifies the wisdom Jesus commends.

Contemplate how your actions and resources currently build or hinder eternal friendships. Are you open-handed and encouraging? Today is the day to foster deeper connections through generous, loving acts.



Day 6: 🧡 Building Eternal Friendships

Reflect and Apply

1. How do you practice generosity in your relationships?

2. What does it mean to build friendships that reflect God's kingdom?

3. Who might God be calling you to love and invest in more deeply?



Day 6: 🧡 Building Eternal Friendships

Journaling Prompts

1. List ways you have shown generosity that led to stronger relationships.

2. Write about someone you can support with resources or encouragement.

3. Reflect on how generosity has impacted your spiritual growth.



Day 6: 🧡 Building Eternal Friendships

Prayer for Today

Lord, cultivate in me a generous heart. Help me build friendships rooted in Your love and grace. Teach me to give without expecting in return, shining Your light through my actions. May my life reflect Your kingdom through kindness, generosity, and faithfulness to others.





Day 7: ✨ Applying Gospel Wisdom Daily



Your Verse

James 1:5 NIV – "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalm 111:10 – "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding."*
- *Matthew 7:24 – "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."*



Day 7: ✨ Applying Gospel Wisdom Daily

Devotional: Committing to Daily Gospel Wisdom

God's wisdom is available to all who ask, inviting us to live out Gospel truth daily with intentionality and courage. The shrewd manager's example challenges us to be proactive, wise, and faithful in every circumstance.

Walking in wisdom means making choices that honor God, leverage resources wisely, and bear eternal fruit. This final day encourages you to commit to daily application of Gospel wisdom, transforming your stewardship into a lifestyle of faith and service.

As you close this study, ask God to empower you with discernment and boldness. May the lessons from Luke 16 inspire you not only to understand but to embody wise stewardship in every aspect of life.



Reflect and Apply

1. How will you seek God's wisdom in managing your life and resources?

2. What steps can you take to build your life on biblical principles?

3. How will you remain faithful to the lessons learned in this study?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write a commitment statement for applying Gospel wisdom.

2. List daily habits that encourage God-honoring stewardship.

3. Reflect on how this study has changed your perspective.



Day 7: ✨ Applying Gospel Wisdom Daily

Prayer for Today

Father, I come before You asking for wisdom. Guide me to live as a faithful steward, applying Your truths with boldness and grace. Help me build my life firmly on Your Word, making choices that glorify You in every area. May Your Spirit lead me daily into deeper understanding and obedience.





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