



**SUNDAY, July 3, 2022**

## **Dishonest Rascal**

**Key Scripture: Luke 16:1–9**

### **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

Luke 16 begins with yet another parable. Speaking to His disciples, Jesus seemingly praises a scoundrel. But a careful look reveals that Jesus is not praising the man's *crookedness*, but rather his *shrewdness* in using a present opportunity to provide for his inevitable future needs. Jesus implies here, and elsewhere, that God owns everything and we're stewards—or managers—of what He entrusts to us. We are stewards of our time, our abilities, and our possessions and money. And all God wants is all we have.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Think back to Sunday's message. What do you remember? Review your notes if you have them.
2. Read Luke 16:1–9. Why was the steward in Jesus' parable (16:1–8) being fired? What in the passage displays his character?
3. What about the steward's actions does the master commend? Do you think it's a little odd for Jesus to use a shrewd manager in a positive light?
4. What is the point that Jesus draws from this parable?
5. The parable teaches that we are God's resources managers (rather than the owners of what we have) and that we have a limited amount of time to invest our resources for eternal purposes. Is that similar or different than how you have viewed your "stuff?"
6. If Jesus set your budget, what would be different? What about your calendar?
7. How is this message of Jesus similar to other stories and passages from Jesus? (see also Luke 6:38, 12:33, 14:14, 14:33)
8. The parable (verse 9) encourages us to use our wealth to "make friends for ourselves" so that we (and they!) will be welcomed into eternity. We learn from Luke 15 (last week's message) that the "friends" he has in mind are people who may be far from God or do not yet know Jesus. Can you identify those friends in your life? How would you say that you are investing in them? Is there anything that needs to change about your level of investment? Is there any way your group can work together with you to invest?
9. What's one thing you learned from Sunday's message and today's discussion that will help you become a better disciple of Christ, and help others do the same?

### **Now What?**

Figure out what you have.

