

THE SHREWD MANAGER

New Testament Lesson #78

Jesus told his disciples this parable: A rich man had a manager in charge of his estate. But the rich man heard that the manager was squandering the things for which he was responsible. The owner called the manager in, demanded an accounting and told the manager he was fired. The manager was concerned. He was not strong enough for manual labor and was ashamed to beg. So he decided to gain the favor of his master's debtors by reducing their bills so that they would remember him kindly and assist him when he was in need.

The debtors eagerly seized the opportunity to reduce their debts, and the master could not help but give grudging admiration to this dishonest man for making use of his limited opportunity to provide for his future.

The owner commented that "the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light."

Jesus commented that "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much."

He added that people cannot serve both God and money.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

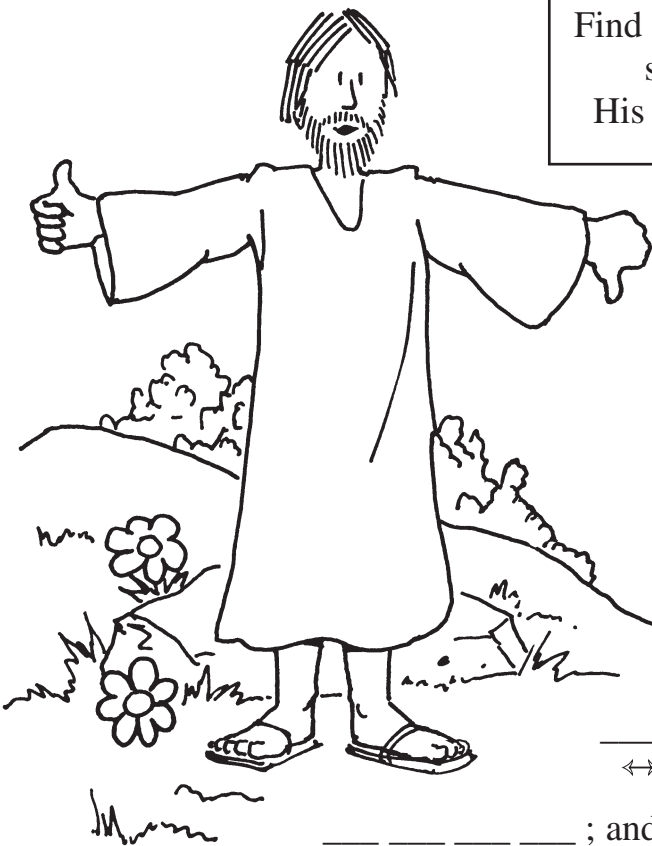
- The owner commended the man's shrewdness, not his dishonesty. The manager recognized that his time was limited and made good use of it, whereas the "people of the light" do not always behave as though they realize this.
- The meaning of this parable is debated. Some feel that Jesus is merely commending wise action: Just as the unrighteous act wisely in matters of this world, the righteous should act wisely in matters of the kingdom. Others suggest that the parable means that just as the manager acted decisively in crisis, so must the followers of Jesus act decisively in times of crisis.

The Shrewd Manager

- I. Jesus told a parable about a rich man who had a manager.
 - A. The manager took care of the land.
 - B. The owner was not happy with the manager's performance and said so.
 - C. The manager lost his job.
- II. The manager reduced the amount of money on bills that were owed by debtors.
 - A. He thought the debtors would treat him kindly later.
 - B. The debtors were pleased to pay less money.
 - C. The owner knew what the manager was doing, but admired the manager for being shrewd.
- III. Jesus said that people cannot serve both God and money.

ANSWER KEY:

Whoever, faithful, little, much, dishonest, dishonest
slave, serve, masters, cannot, serve, God, wealth



Find what Jesus said to His disciples.

C
O
D
E

= A	= H	= R
= C	= I	= S
= D	= L	= T
= E	= M	= U
= F	= N	= V
= G	= O	= W

“ _____ is

_____ in a very

_____ is faithful also in

_____ ; and whoever is _____

in a very little is _____ also in much.”
 (Luke 16:10)



“No _____ can

_____ two

You _____

_____ and _____.”

(Luke 16:13)

Name _____

Draw faces to fit the words in the story.

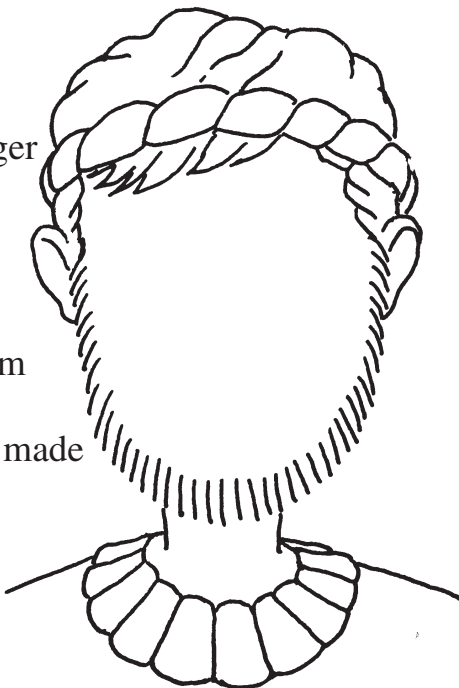
① The master was angry!



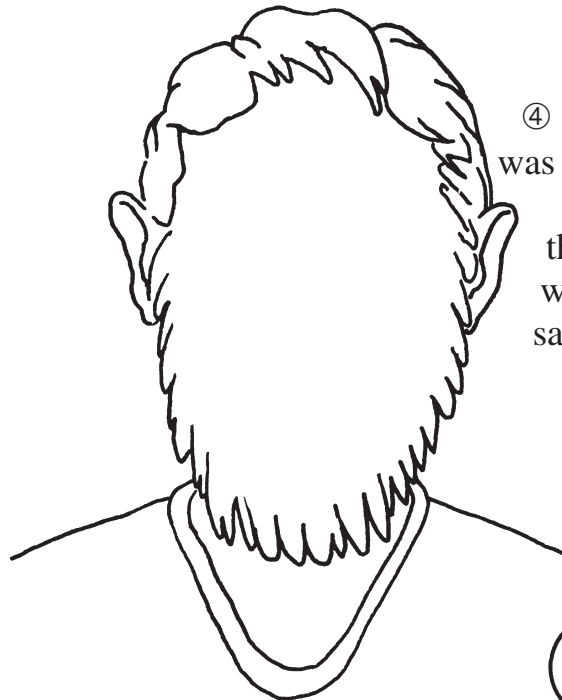
② His manager was worried.
He had not taken good care of the master's property.



③ The manager decided to make friends with some people who could help him if he were in trouble. That made him relieved.



④ The master was thoughtful.
He thought the manager was smart to save himself.



Name _____