



# encounter.

a step-by-step guide through Scripture

## **disciple:**

// someone who follows Jesus and leads others to do the same.

Studying God's Word is one of the best ways to grow your relationship with God, be tuned to the Holy Spirit, and get to know Jesus intimately. John 1 tells us that the Word is God, the writer of Psalms tells us it will light our path, and Jesus tells us in John 8 if we abide in His Word, we are truly His disciples.

This tool is just one of the many ways to study the Bible and dive deeper into the passages we will be studying each weekend together. Our hope is that you begin to deeply understand the scripture we will be unpacking and allow God to speak to your heart before you even walk through the doors on Sunday.

This tool is designed to help guide you as you seek to understand the context of each verse, what it meant to its original audience, and what it means to us today.

There are a few ways you can utilize this PDF.

- 01** Print the PDF.  
-or-
- 02** Download the PDF, open in a notes app (GoodNotes, Notability, etc), fill it out digitally.  
-or-
- 03** Use the PDF to transcribe into a notebook or journal.

### **5 Marks of a Disciple**

- Know Jesus Intimately
- Follow the Holy Spirit Relentlessly
- Obey God's Word Completely
- Love His Church Wholeheartedly
- Seek the Lost Intentionally



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Week of September 11<sup>th</sup> // Conversation September 17<sup>th</sup>

## The Shrewd Manager

Let's look at a parable Jesus taught regarding a shrewd manager's way of handling a tough circumstance. We'll discover what that situation teaches us about our own use of our money and possessions.

## pray.

Before you dive into the Word, it's always good to start by talking to the Author of the Word Himself. Ask God to open your heart and give you understanding. Today's parable is a little tricky to understand, so ask God to give you wisdom and guide you through this devotional.

## observe.

- 01 Circle every reference to the manager, including pronouns like "he", "his" and "him".
- 02 Put a \$ over every reference to money.



**encounter.**

In Jesus' day, managers were hired by wealthy people to take care of the finances of their estates. They're similar to a financial planner or trustee in today's world. The manager's purpose is to make more money for the estate. The money doesn't belong to the manager, but it's there for him to use on the estate's behalf.

Luke 16:1-9 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup>Jesus told this story to his disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. <sup>2</sup>So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'

<sup>3</sup>"The manager thought to himself, 'Now what? My boss has fired me. I don't have the strength to dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. <sup>4</sup> Ah, I know how to ensure that I'll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.'

<sup>5</sup>"So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe him?' <sup>6</sup> The man replied, 'I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.' So the manager told him, 'Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.'

<sup>7</sup>“And how much do you owe my employer?” he asked the next man. “I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,” was the reply. “Here,” the manager said, “take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.”

<sup>8</sup>“The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd (having or showing sharp powers of judgment; astute). And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. <sup>9</sup>Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.



# interpret.

**01** Why was the manager fired?

**02** What did the manager realize when he was fired? What did he NOT want to do?

**03** What was his plan for ensuring he would have friends to take care of him when he was fired?



# interpret.

**04** What was the rich man's response to the manager's actions? How did he describe the manager?

**05** Had the manager done a good thing? Was the rich man commending the manager for being dishonest? What do you think he was specifically admiring?

**06** What did Jesus say about worldly resources in v. 9?

# apply.

**01** How are you doing with your wealth these days? Are you using your material possessions to bless others and bring them to the kingdom, or are you storing them up and have you become a servant of your wealth?

**02** Is there anything God is bringing to your heart right now regarding your money and possessions? Take some time to write down your thoughts.

# apply.

- 03** Brainstorm some ways you can use your money and possessions to bless others in the coming weeks. Can you donate school supplies? Make dinner for a sick neighbor? Give someone a ride to work?



## bring it together.

While the manager in this parable was dishonest, he had acted shrewdly and used his resources to plan ahead. He secured his future knowing he was out of a job with the relationships he had at the time.

Jesus is not teaching that it's okay to be dishonest in this parable. Rather, he is showing believers that they can use material things for future spiritual benefits. It's a good lesson from a bad example.

Jesus is teaching that children of the light (i.e. believers) should use material wealth to gain friends and lead others to believe the message of the kingdom and bring them to accept that message. He is not saying you should bribe or use your money dishonestly. You can use your money and possessions to bless others and bring them closer to a saving knowledge of Christ.

## connect.

We are available to answer any questions you might have.

 [info@gtwy.church](mailto:info@gtwy.church)

We believe life is better in circles. Groups are a great place to grow in your relationship with other believers and find encouragement and accountability as you grow in your relationship with God.

 [www.gtwy.church/groups](http://www.gtwy.church/groups)

[we value your input. click or scan here to provide feedback](#)

