

The Shrewd Steward **Luke 16:1-9**

*Something to remember about parables--they were not intended to be easy, especially for a struggling nation under judgment (Mk. 4:10-13)
We'll tackle this notoriously difficult parable as a four-scene story.*

Shrewd steward gets caught (1,2)

- *The steward was probably an estate manager (see debts are ag.)
- *His failure and fate? “squandered” (1:51, Acts 5:37) = incompetent?
- *The rich man seems. . .

Shrewd steward realizes his crisis (3,4)

- *A soliloquy here; he considers his two bad options.
- *His crafty conclusion is to rely on the goodness of others.

Shrewd steward's crafty accounting (5-7)

- *Biggest concern now = ? “sit down quickly. . .”
- *Huge debt reduction here, as thousands of dollars were lost at the expense of the landowner).
- *Would you be grateful if your debts were cut like this?
- *What is the steward counting on for his scheme to work at all?

Shrewd steward is commended (8)

- *Amazing ending scene: the steward is actually congratulated!
- *The landowner's response shows what about him?

Jesus' points here (made in 8b-9):

Are you shrewd enough? See “shrewd” in 12:42, Mtt. 10:16, 25:2,4).

Money can be redeemed so to speak “Unrighteous mammon” (*Amp.*
“deceitful riches” *NIV* “worldly wealth”)
Concern: 16:19ff., I Tim. 6:9-10, Prov. 30:8,9
Value: Phil. 4:17, I Tim 6:17-19, 2 Cor. 9:11

Clever “sons of light” know that temporary _____ should be used
to secure eternal _____