

““The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. 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. 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.” Luke 16:8-9 NLT

[lectio] // LUKE 16:1-15

Whoa, Jesus is actually teaching a very modern business practice today. Amazon does it all the time with creating a “free shipping” craze. Everyone else was trying to pad their profits with “add-one” or shipping and handling. Luke writes, “Jesus told this story to his disciples: “One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money.” The story doesn’t say he was STEALING money, just that he appeared to be wasteful. Maybe he was just bad at expenses, or bill collection. Or maybe he was too generous with his boss’s money - giving discounts or letting some pay on a 60/90 day cycle instead of 30. Maybe the employee had a soft spot for small businesses and was giving more grace than his boss was comfortable with. There is a really wild point here - generosity to benefit others creates more openness and opportunity for EVERYONE. Every modern business networking culture knows that! This is now consulting actually works. Seth Godin wrote a book about it called linchpin. This was especially true when people bartered with goods and services - that attitude and care WAS their cash! Maybe Jesus highlights this story to remind us about the value of what we have (love, grace and eternity) and to quit being so stingy with it. The Pharisees were like inside-trader experts, they had their hands in every socio, political, economic pot of their day and did NOTHING to push their knowledge, expertise and equity out to ANYONE - even each other. They were the shrewd business owners and were mad because their “workers/followers” weren’t giving them their financial cut they thought they deserved. The came off looking more like Mr. Scrooge than they did like God!

[oratio]

Dad,

How was Jesus able to tell such deep, rich, multi-layered stories that cut to the core of our human hearts? These stories are so insightful and timeless. I would love to have that ability to communicate such rich, colorful, even humorous truths through stories. Can you teach me? I want to learn! I would very much like to leverage any and all “inside” information about life, business, tech, family or whatever to people who want to learn. What can I give in wisdom equity to bless my network of friends and family. I want to give “FREE SHIPPING” to all!

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root