



# Daily Reflections

**November 10, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Luke 16: 1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property.

He summoned him and said,  
'What is this I hear about you?

Prepare a full account of your stewardship,  
because you can no longer be my steward.'

The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do,  
now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me?  
I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg.

I know what I shall do so that,  
when I am removed from the stewardship,  
they may welcome me into their homes.'

He called in his master's debtors one by one.

To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?'

He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.'

He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note.

Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.'

Then to another he said, 'And you, how much do you owe?'

He replied, 'One hundred measures of wheat.'

He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note;  
write one for eighty.'

And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.  
For the children of this world

are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than the children of light."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

In telling this puzzling story, I assure you, Our Lord is not advocating dishonest business practices. The steward in the Gospel story had a tremendous amount of power, especially when his master was away. His decisions, his signature were equivalent in authority to that of the master. For some reason that is not germane to the story the steward has been given notice of impending termination. He immediately negotiates with his master's debtors and lowers the amount of money each one owes the master, and Jesus PRAISES him! Why? The steward in lowering the amount owed by the debtor is removing his own commission, therefore, the master loses no money. The steward does so in order to "feather his nest" for the lean times ahead. Jesus praises his ingenuity and uses his efforts as an example of true discipleship: We need to use the same energy, ingenuity and resourcefulness that we use in our secular affairs in our Gospel affairs. If we could do so, great things will happen for the Kingdom.

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## **Food for your Journey**

A full-of-herself religious woman was deeply shocked when the new neighbors called on Sunday morning and asked to borrow her lawn mower.

"The very idea of cutting grass on Sunday," she ranted to her husband. "Shameful! Certainly, they can't have it. Tell them our lawn mower is broken."

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Pour forth Your Grace upon me so that I may use the time and talent You have so generously bestowed upon me to do Your good work. May I produce abundant fruit for the sake of Your Gospel. Amen.