



Gary Inrig – The Parables (Assuring My Future)

Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Struck You – “Strange, New or Different”.

Week 7 – Read Chapter Seven: “Assuring My Future” (The Shrewd Manager). Read – Luke 16:1-13

Opening Prayer: Begin the session with a prayer, asking Holy Spirit to bless the time, discussions and reveal the truth of God’s Word. – Since we are but stewards, not owners, of all our possessions; ask the Lord to reveal the ways in which we may live out this present life - practically and shrewdly – for the next one and for the benefit of others – give us Lord - Your unique insights/ideas – to *illuminate* our hearts and minds ... in Jesus name Amen!

Overview: In this chapter Gary Inrig explores Jesus's parable of the shrewd manager (Luke 16:1-13), challenging believers to be astute and strategic with their money and possessions for eternal purposes. While the manager in the parable was dishonest, Jesus commends his forward-thinking approach—acting decisively in the present to secure his future. Disciples are called to use their “**worldly wealth**” shrewdly to gain eternal friends (rewards), recognizing that we are **simply stewards**, not owners, of all that we possess.

"A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in a little thing is a great thing." — Hudson Taylor

SOME KEY POINTS:

- ❖ **Shrewdness:** Is acting decisively in the present to position yourself for an eternal future.
- ❖ **As stewards, not owners—**everything we possess belongs to God.
- ❖ **Faithfulness in little things** prepares us for true riches— how we handle earthly wealth determines our capacity for eternal responsibilities.
- ❖ **We must choose our master—**we can serve God with money, but we cannot serve both God & Money.
- ❖ **Fools serve money** and leave it all behind. Shrewd believers serve God and invest in eternity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What's the shrewdest financial decision you've ever made? What's one you wish you could take back?



2. In what ways might the concept of *“being shrewd”* challenge your understanding of Christian discipleship, and how do you reconcile being both shrewd and spiritually minded?

3. Gary mentions that Wellington's biographer learned more about him from his account ledger than from his letters. If someone examined your bank statements and credit card bills, what would they conclude about your priorities and what you think is important?

4. If we are indeed stewards of everything and owners of nothing. How might this perspective change the way you view your possessions, income, and financial decisions?

5. The dishonest manager acted decisively in the present to secure his future. How are you currently using your resources and opportunities in the present to invest in eternal outcomes rather than temporary comforts?

6. Jesus states that whoever can be trusted with very little can be trusted with much. What small areas of financial stewardship might God be testing you in right now, and how does your faithfulness in these areas reveal your character?



7. Reflect on the closing illustration about the man preparing the island before his exile. What are you sending ahead to prepare for eternity? What "eternal friends" might welcome you because of how you've used your resources?
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Things to Think On this Week-

- 1. **The Shrewd Audit:** Review your last few months of spending. If you were to categorize them as: A. Essential B. Comfort(non-essential) C. Eternal – What percentage would be in each bucket? What's one change you could make to be more eternally shrewd?
- 2. **Faithful in Little?** Write down one "***little thing***" in your financial life where you've been unfaithful (whether late payments, overdrafts, impulse purchases, budgeting, etc.). Commit to being faithful in that area for 30 days. Take note - how faithfulness in small things affects your character.
- 3. **An Eternal Investment:** Identify someone whose spiritual journey you could invest in financially (paying for a conference, buying books, covering a need). Use your resources to help them grow in Christ – to build an eternal friendship.

Closing Prayer: *(this prayer is only a suggestion - please feel free and be encouraged to pray your own as the Holy Spirit leads)*

*Lord – we thank You for the financial resources that You have blessed us with – and we know that it all – comes from You. We pray for Wisdom to be shrewd disciples ... wise and free from the bondage of money, - Your word doesn't say that 'Money Is a Root of All sorts of Evil' – it says that the **"The Love of Money"** is (1 timothy 6:10) - Help us to be Creative in using Your resources for Your eternal purposes and Faithful in all the "little things"- Lord we pray that You would give us Your Kingdom perspective on all that we possess - ... in Jesus name we pray – amen!*

"Two things I have asked of You; Do not deny them to me before I die: Keep deception and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, so that I will not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or that I will not be poor and steal, and so profane the name of my God."-

Proverbs 30:7-9 AMP