

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

CROSSROADS

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

The shrewd manager (Luke 16: 1-13)

As Jesus continues to make his way toward Jerusalem, his teaching focuses on the growing urgency. This urgency is expressed in a parable about a manager who is both dishonest and shrewd. This is a parable about the crisis with which Jesus confronts the world and about which a decision needs to be made. The manager is in a crisis and needs to make some quick and important decisions. Jesus applauds the manager for acting so shrewdly. The people of God need to make up their minds on the choices that confront them just as shrewdly.

The image to stimulate reflection on Jesus' teaching about the need to act decisively is *crossroads*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 16: 13; for reflection throughout the week)

Jesus said, 'No slave can serve two masters;
for a slave will either hate the one and love the other,
or be devoted to the one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and wealth.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you call your people
to choose your way.
Help us to follow you
with all our being,
that we may live as your disciples;
for you are our God,
now and always.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 16: 1-13

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Luke 16: 1-13)

Begin to explore Luke's parable about a manager who is both dishonest and shrewd by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What was in Jesus' mind when he told this parable?
- What do you make of the dishonest manager?
- What do you see as the point of the parable?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Although this parable is only in Luke's Gospel, Luke concludes it with material that he shares with Matthew.

- Matthew 6: 24

Explore other teaching on crisis and urgency in the Gospels.

- Matthew 24: 36-39
- Matthew 24: 42-50
- Matthew 25: 1-13
- Luke 12: 39-40
- Luke 21: 34-36

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (YEAR C) Sunday 21 September 2025

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Luke's account of Jesus' teaching about the dishonest manager by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Luke 16: 1-13
- Dishonest steward in art
- Images of crossroads

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of Jesus' teaching about the dishonest manager is *crossroads*. Draw on your experience of crossroads. For example:

- What is your experience of crossroads when travelling?
- What has been your experience of crossroads in life?
- What are the crossroads with which Jesus presents us?

What have you learned about crossroads?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's account of Jesus' teaching about the dishonest manager or by the image of crossroads.

- Make a collage of pictures of crossroads.
- Make a poster about the parable of the dishonest manager.
- Make pictures of crossroads in your locality.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the dishonest manager or the image of crossroads.



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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