

All of us make choices about what we value, and these priorities often reveal what truly masters us. For some, it is money, sport, family, fears, or even social media. Whatever consumes our thoughts and shapes our actions become our master.

In Luke 16, Jesus tells a parable about a dishonest manager who, when caught embezzling, faced losing his job. Too weak for manual labour and too proud to beg, he devised a plan: he reduced the debts of his master's clients, sacrificing his own commission. In doing so, he won their gratitude and future support.

Surprisingly, the master commended him for his shrewd foresight, though not for his dishonesty.

From this story, Jesus draws four lessons.

First, people often show more foresight in securing their futures than God's people do in their spiritual lives. If believers applied the same energy to faith as the manager did to saving himself, the world would look very different.

Second, resources are not ours to hoard but to use for God's purposes. True wealth lies not in what we keep but in what we give away. Generosity builds eternal treasure.

Third, integrity matters. Faithfulness in small things shows the character that will be faithful in greater things. Dishonesty in little matters reflects dishonesty in all matters.

Finally, Jesus warns that no one can serve two masters. We cannot serve both God and wealth. Just as the manager's loyalties clashed, so too divided allegiance leads to conflict. Serving God requires total devotion, not part-time commitment.

This parable challenges us to be wise and generous with what God entrusts us, to live with integrity, and to be clear about who our true Master is. Our lives ultimately reveal what - and who - we value most.