



## **Living in God's Amazing Grace**

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LTSG

**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**

*of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America*

## To Speak in Parables

Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

Parables function as metaphors  
challenging or inviting the audience  
into a new or deeper experience of  
God's dominion, a dominion  
identified with those who are the  
**LAST LOST LEAST LITTLE  
LIFELESS**

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### The Parables of Jesus

- Keep in mind the context
- Parables are to be experienced
- Expect to be surprised
- We can expect a consistency in Jesus' message related to the dominion of God and how it is experienced in surprising, even scandalous, but always grace-filled ways

## To Speak in Parables

Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

### *Is This Any Way to Run a Business*

The Parable of the Unjust Steward  
Luke 16.1-8

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

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Luke 16.1-9

There was a rich man who had a manager,

*What are your initial responses to  
this rich man and his manager?*

and charges were brought to him

*What charges? Brought by whom?*

that this man was squandering his property.

*What was he doing to squander the  
rich man's property?*

Luke 16.1-9

So he summoned him and said to him,

“What is this that I hear about you?  
Give me an accounting of your management,  
because you cannot be my manager any  
longer.”

*Is the rich man acting wisely?*

Luke 16.1-9

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.

*What was the manager supposed  
to be doing?*

I know what to do so that,  
when I am dismissed as manager,  
people may welcome me into their homes.”

Luke 16.1-9

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.” *What is the logic of  
the manager's actions?*

Then he asked another, *What do you think  
of him?*  
“And how much do you *owe*?”

He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.”

He said to him,

“Take your bill and make it eighty.”

Luke 16.1-9

And his master commended the  
dishonest manager (manager of unrighteousness)

*Would you commend this manager?*

because he had acted shrewdly (wisely)

*What would you call the manager's actions?*

Luke 16.1-9

... for the children of this age are more shrewd  
(wiser) in dealing with their own generation  
than are the children of light.

*Where does the parable end?*

Luke 16.1-9

And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by  
means of dishonest wealth (mammon of  
unrighteousness) so that when it is gone, they  
may welcome you into the eternal homes.

*Is he a “manager of unrighteousness” because he  
was a manager of mammon?*

*What does this mean we should do with money?*

Luke 16.10-13

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?

*How was the manager faithful with the money?*

Luke 16.10-13

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**

So what's going on here?

Rich man

Manager (of unrighteousness)

Charge is made that manager has  
mismanaged the rich man's property

Manager acknowledges  
inability to do anything except...

Manager forgives debts of debtors to rich man

Rich man commends manager for acting wisely

So what's going on here?

Rich man

Manager (of unrighteousness)

Charge is made that manager has  
mismanaged the rich man's property

**Manager acknowledges  
inability to do anything except...**

Manager forgives debts of debtors to rich man

Rich man commends manager for acting wisely

*Is this the story of a desperate man(ager)  
who responds by doing only thing possible?*

So what's going on here?

Rich man

**Manager (of unrighteousness)**

Charge is made that manager has  
mismanaged the rich man's property

Manager acknowledges  
inability to do anything except...

Manager forgives debts of debtors to rich man

Rich man commends manager for acting wisely

*Who is the 'God figure'?*

So what's going on here?

Rich man

Manager (of unrighteousness)

**Charge is made that manager has  
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Manager acknowledges  
inability to do anything except...

Manager forgives debts of debtors to rich man

Rich man commends manager for acting wisely

*What presuppositions are being challenged?*

So what's going on here?

Rich man

Manager (of unrighteousness)

**Charge is made that manager has  
mismanaged the rich man's property**

Manager acknowledges  
inability to do anything except...

Manager forgives debts of debtors to rich man

Rich man commends manager for acting wisely

*What if this rich person is in the  
'business' of forgiveness?*

So what's going on here?

Lord's Prayer

And forgive us our debts  
as we also forgive our debtors

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### *Is This Any Way to Run a Business*

The Parable of the Unjust Steward  
Luke 16.1-8

The Consistent Call of God

*It's God's call, and it's not based on our merits  
It's a call to enact God's justice / righteousness*

*It means that God and we are  
in the 'business' of forgiveness*

*It's part of what it means to  
live in God's amazing grace*

• **The Persistent Call**  
**The Insistent Call** → **Vacation**  
**The Consistent Call**

*It's God's call, not our choice nor based on our merits*

*It's God's way of making the unrighteous righteous and of enacting God's justice*

*It's being about the 'business' of forgiveness*

*It's Good News to the **last, lost, least, little, and lifeless***

*It's being chosen to celebrate in the party that is the dominion of God*

**The Persistent Call**  
**The Insistent Call** → **Vocation**  
**The Consistent Call**

*It's...*



**Living in God's  
Amazing Grace**