

Sermon 21 stories SHREWD DUDES luke 16

SHREWD DUDES FOR JESUS

LUKE 16:1-8

TAKE HOME

- In all of these parables about harvest, earning interest, being productive...what is the gain we are talking about? We need to get this straight.
- We are God's partners in helping people get onboard with Jesus...and it requires solid planning, shrewd thinking, and life-long commitment.
- Put yourself in the story...see yourself as the farmer, the entrepreneur and the fisherman...with the certainty of accountability. How are you doing?

SO WHAT IS GOD UP TO ANYWAY?

- That they 'might not perish'. John 3:16
- To seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10
- Remember the 'lost' chapter...what creates a party in Heaven, Luke 15?

PARABLES AND FIGURATIVE LESSONS ABOUT PRODUCTIVITY ARE COUCHED IN A REDEMPTION MOTIF

- Grape vines are to bear fruit. John 14
- The story of stewards expected to make a profit for the master...a lesson in using what we have for Kingdom advantage. What might this look like today? Luke 19:17ff
- And the Fig Tree Story...what fruit is God expecting of us? Luke 13:6

HOW DID PAUL SEE HIS ROLE AS AN AGENT OF REDEMPTION?

- I am all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I Corinthians 9:22
- We are Christ's ambassadors...as though God is making his appeal through us. II Corinthians 5:20
- A story about being shrewd dudes: Luke 16:1-8

MOVE THE WHOLE CONVERSATION TO SOUTHERN OREGON!

- 'Talents' ...resources of all sorts...possessions, opportunities, relationships, skills, the list is endless
- How can we apply our resources to the White Fields? What sort of engagement in culture?
- What does 'shrewd' look like...how is it played out...why is the darkness more shrewd than the light?

A CALL TO PLANT SEEDS...INVEST RESOURCES...ENGAGE THE CULTURE...BE LIGHT AND SALT

- Congregational Efforts
- Individual Involvement
- Creative Engagement
- Accepting the mandate, the assignment, the charge.
- Living as Ambassadors...being all things to all men.

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