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MASTERCLASS #1  
**Planning for a Purposed Life**

*Word*

**Scripture Reference**

Luke 16:1-13

**Discussion Questions**

1. How does our culture compel us to love material wealth?
2. As the greatest teacher who ever lived, Jesus Christ often used parables to teach life lessons, to help people remember spiritual principles and to reveal something about God. In this parable, Jesus is teaching us that God wants you to plan for a purposed life, one that has eternal values. You may already have made plans to do all kinds of things this new year. Which of your new year plans do you think have eternal value? What motivates you to pursue these plans. Share and discuss.
3. **The Situation (v. 1-4):** One of the parables that Jesus told is the Parable of the Shrewd Servant. Read Luke 16:1-13. This is a story of a rich man who was firing his steward (manager) because this manager was mismanaging the rich man's resources. The manager was asked to close up the accounts he was handling before leaving the company. Why was the manager afraid to lose his job (v. 3)? If you were in his situation, would you consider it a wake up call if you were to lose your job because of mismanagement? Why is having contingency plans important? Is it God's will for you to have one?
4. **The Action Plan (v. 5-7):** The job termination was indeed a wake up call for the manager. While thinking about his situation, he came up with a brilliant idea to put himself in a better position when he leaves the company. What action plan did the manager set up so that his future would be secured? Was giving up a temporary loss of his commission to gain future favor a good deal? Would you sacrifice your own gain for the sake of the company that you are working with? Why or why not?
5. **The Commendation (v. 8):** Apparently, the rich man was impressed with how the manager willingly took a loss in order to gain future favor. What does Jesus mean when He said, "*For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light*"? Who are the "people of light" that Jesus was referring to? Should Christians allow themselves to be taken advantage of in their dealings with others? What does Matthew 10:16 say about it? Discuss how you should wisely deal with people whom you work with. How does planning for future gain help make having to experience temporal loss worth going through?
6. The Parable of the Shrewd Servant shows us three lessons that Jesus Christ teaches on how to plan a purposed life:
  - a. **Lesson #1: Plan wisely for eternity (v. 9).** Jesus taught that you should use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourself to bring Christ to them. Share examples of how you could use your resources to lead someone to Christ— an act that would lead you to go through temporal loss but gain something for eternity?
  - b. **Lesson #2: Plan to be faithful and trustworthy, even in small things (v. 10-12).** The man in this parable was not trustworthy in the task that was given to him therefore he was fired. Jesus is telling you that when you are planning for life, you should plan to be faithful and trustworthy. Faithfulness doesn't depend on the task or amount of work you were given, but your character measures it. Discuss how you could be faithful and trustworthy in the task given to you. How does faithfulness in the task God gives you today will affect your future?

- c. **Lesson #3: Plan to be loyal to only one Master: the Lord God (v. 13).** At the end of the day, you cannot serve two masters; you can only be loyal to one. You need to choose that master now because you cannot love two equally. Why is it impossible to serve two masters? What are the “masters” in your life that cause conflicts in your priorities? How can you be loyal to only one Master, the Lord God?

### *Walk*

A lasting loyalty to God is not loyalty to the church, pastor, environment, or program you love; it is loyalty to one Person, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only One who will never fail you. Therefore, when you make plans for your life, plan wisely for eternity, plan to be faithful and trustworthy even in small things, and plan to be loyal to only one Master, the Lord God. Think about these things and see if your plans are filtered through your loyalty to God.

### *Worship & Prayer*

*Heavenly Father, thank You for opening my eyes on how I should plan for my life that involves relationships, resources, loyalties, and priorities. I must admit that most of the time, my plans revolve around my personal affairs that compromise my relationships with others and even with You. Help me, Father, to be purposeful in my plans with eternity in mind, that I would be willing to go the extra mile in order to bring someone closer to You. Help me to be faithful and trustworthy in whatever I do so that I would be a good representation of Your name. Help me to be loyal to You because You alone deserves my loyalty. In Jesus' name. Amen.*