

Parable of the Shrewd Manager

- ◆ Estate manager accused of squandering wealth
- ◆ Landowner fires manager
- ◆ Manager negotiates reduced contracts for landowner's debtors

Luke 16:10-12

- ◆ Faithful in **little** | faithful in **much**
- ◆ Unjust in **little** | unjust in **much**
 - ◆ If you aren't faithful in unjust mammon,
 - ◆ Who will trust you with what is true?
- ◆ If you aren't faithful in what belongs to another,
- ◆ Who will give you what is yours?

Luke 16:13

- ◆ No servant can serve **two masters**
 - ◆ Either: hates one | *loves* the other
 - ◆ Or: *devoted* to one | despises the other
- ◆ You cannot serve **God and Mammon**

“You are not making a gift of what is yours to the poor person. You are giving him back what is his... The earth belongs to everyone, not to the rich.”

- Ambrose of Milan

- From *On Naboth*, late 380s

“The bread you hold back belongs to the hungry ... the shoes rotting in your closet belong to those without shoes; the silver which you keep hidden in a safe place belongs to the one in need. You wrong as many people as you could have provided for.”

- Basil of Caesarea, 330-379 A.D.

(Homily on the saying of the *Gospel According to Luke*, “I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones,” and on greed)

Questions for Reflection

- ◆ What lesson do you think Jesus meant for us to take from this parable?
- ◆ Is money good or bad or neither?
- ◆ How do we know when we are serving “mammon” instead of God?
- ◆ How would the world look different if God’s will were done in the realm of economics?