

Jesus—Uncut and Uncensored

Buy Your Friends

August 30, 2009 – Jeff Gunn

¹Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ²So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

³"The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— ⁴I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

⁵"So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

⁶" 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied.

"The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.'

⁷"Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?'

" 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied.

"He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

⁸"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. (Luke 16:1-9, NIV)

Shrewd = discerning awareness and practical, hard-headed judgment

You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath. (Psalm 39:5, NIV)

For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. (Psalm 50:10, NIV)

- I am _____ about my time and my Master's resource base

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. (Romans 12:3, NIV)

- I _____ myself accurately

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. (Romans 14:12, NIV)

- I am _____ for how I use God's resources

1. I will grasp my real _____.

He committed all the sins his father had done before him; his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his forefather had been. (1 Kings 15:3, NIV)

- I want to have a full-throttle _____ to God

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. (2 Corinthians 8:3, NIV)

- I want to express _____ love for my neighbor

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:10-11, NIV)

- I want to keep an eagle eye on _____

2. I will recall my life's true _____.

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. (John 1:18, NIV)

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. (John 12:3, NIV)

3. I will deploy God's resources _____

and _____.

My next steps in the "Cross-Walk":

- Check your shrewdness quotient this week. Have you grasped your true situation? Do you know your life's purpose and goal?
- Test God's grace and goodness. Deploy his resources this week.
- Meditate on and memorize Luke 16:9.