

Organizing Our Lives: Fruits of Organization

01-17-16 AM

Luke 16:1-12 tells the parable of the unjust steward. It tells how a servant is fired from his job, and how he prepares for his uncertain future using the means he has available. Jesus concludes by pointing out that sometimes worldly people are shrewder than brethren in preparing themselves for the future. *“For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.”*

We all want to have spiritual success in our future. We want to grow in grace and knowledge; we want to share the gospel with others; we want to bear the fruit of the spirit. Spiritual success needs plans; as the saying goes, if you fail to plan, you actually plan to fail. Successful plans need organization. Therefore, spiritual success requires spiritual organization. This is a characteristic not lost on the world, but sometimes lost on the Christian. We intellectually know we should organize for success, but we emotionally feel we do not need to organize.

The unjust steward teaches us two important ideas. The first idea is that we ought to use whatever resources we have to achieve the goals we set. The steward only had left in his care the accounting of debts, and was able to use it to secure his future. The second thing that the parable teaches us is that we ought to fear the results of not preparing. The unjust steward knew he could not dig, and knew he did not want to beg. He intellectually and emotionally saw what the results of not preparing were, and found them unacceptable.

Spiritual preparation has great reward. First, it produces in us the absence of anxiety over uncertainty (Philippians 4:6). Second, it allows us to have confidence in our actions, knowing that we are prepared for success (1 Peter 1:13). Third, when we prepare and organize ourselves, we have an improved likelihood of success (1 Peter 3:15). Fourth, we are told in Scripture that when we do our best to present ourselves as prepared workers, we will not be ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15). Finally, we can anticipate the praise of our Master when He returns (Luke 12:42-43).

The absence of spiritual preparation and organization leaves us in dire circumstances. The unjust steward saw that he would be left with jobs he lacked the strength to do, and doing things that left him ashamed if he did not prepare. There are specific dangers when we are not organized for spiritual success. We are overwhelmed with anxiety, regret and shame. We are left absent of knowing a course of action when a situation arises. Not preparing ourselves raises the likelihood of failure in our endeavors. When we fail, we are more likely to falsely blame God for our lack of success. Finally, the worst consequence is that we will receive the disdain of our Master.

So you want to grow? Then you ought to consider the unjust steward. We should apply worldly organization to spiritual growth. We should make decisions for the eternal destination.