



## THE REAL POINT OF CAMPING

2nd in a Series on Difficult Sayings of Jesus Titled, "What Did He Say?"

**Passage:** Luke 16:1-9 - Topic: Living Wisely

This past Sunday, Rick continued his new sermon series aimed at understanding some of the more confusing teachings of Jesus Christ. This time we looked at the parable of the shrewd manager.

It seems at first glance to be a story of an unscrupulous manager, that Jesus concludes by saying we should copy him. But it is illogical to think Jesus would advocate being a cunning snake to enter and populate the Kingdom of Heaven. Instead, Rick suggested a plausible explanation.

Rick pointed out how the tax collectors made their living by inflating the cost of the taxes to the people (and many times took advantage of that license to overcharge for personal gain). He said it was likely that the manager also practiced that business model. It would make sense that his boss would commend him if he got delinquent debtors to pay up what they owed the owner, at only the manager's expense. It would have been a wise investment in the clever manager's future, protecting his reputation and future employment, and possibly even saving him his job.

Then Rick suggested that Jesus then turned to His followers and said they should emulate the clever manager, in investing *spiritually* in their *eternal* futures. You cannot serve two masters - either Christ is on the throne of your heart or something else is (and that means idolatry). In Matthew 6:19-20, Jesus tells His followers not to store up treasure on earth for themselves, but to store up treasures for Heaven, where moth and rust can't corrupt and thieves can't break in and steal.

In application, Rick made three suggestions:

1. Receive Christ (if you have not yet done so). Trust Him for eternal life.
2. Pursue the eternal. Eternity's magnitude warrants focusing carefully on eternal treasures, not temporal ones.
3. Have an eternal view of life (this now is the tiny beginning part of it). This will have eternal benefits but also it will help us as we face hardship in this life, knowing that our suffering produces eternal dividends. And he concluded with Paul Tripp's analogy of life being like a camping trip: Exciting adventure at first, then after a few days, the hardships of "roughing it" dampen our enthusiasm. We start to long for the creature comforts of our real home. And life is like that. Let's long for our *real* home, Heaven.