

LESSONS FROM A CROOK

Lk 16:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Jesus, in this text is giving a commendation to a man who was dishonest - a man who was a crook, a thief.
- B. He was a steward or overseer who wasted his master's goods
- C. When called into account of his crooked dealings he began to make preparation for himself after his termination from his position as manager.
- D. Jesus commends the man's foresight in preparing for the future, not his dishonest dealings.
- E. It occurs to me that we could learn some valuable lessons from the thinking of this dishonest manager.

DISCUSSION:

I. HE BELIEVED HIS MASTER

- A. When his master said he would give account he believed it
- B. He began to think and plan what he could do
- C. God, our master, has said we must give account of our actions
2Cor 5:10; Rom 14:12
 - 1. We have time here to prepare, but do we believe
 - 2. Our Master has given us a guide book with instructions
 - 3. We are told how to prepare, so that we can give account without fear.
- D. Are we convinced of our accountability as was this man?

II. HE SAW HIMSELF AS HE WAS

- A. He took inventory of himself:
 - 1. For some reason he could not dig (work)
 - 2. He was ashamed to beg
- B. We do not know whether he had ever examined himself before or not, but when he did, he saw himself as he really was. He was honest in his examination of self
- C. Are we as honest with ourselves as this man was
 - 1. Do we see ourselves as we really are? Matt 7:1-5
 - 2. Most of the time we see others better than ourselves
 - 3. We can't see the big log in our own eye but can see the splinter in our brother's eye
- D. We need to heed Paul's admonition 2Cor 13:5

III. HE SAW HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING

- A. There was in him a sense of urgency
 - 1. He made up his mind to do something about his situation
 - 2. He did not have long to prepare, so he set about the task of getting it done
- B. Our life is short, we do not have long to prepare Jas 4:14
- C. We have a task to perform we desire to have eternal life Matt 7:21

IV. HE USED WHAT HE HAD

- A. He made his future as secure as possible

- B. He made the most of a bad situation
 - 1. He made several indebted to him
 - 2. He made his living secure - death was the alternative
- C. Are we really using what we have available to us in the service of the Lord
 - 1. The Lord has set forth certain requirements so we can make our future secure. This is true security
 - 2. "It's not what you would do with a million if riches should ever be your lot. It's what you are doing at present, with the dollar and quarter you've got."
 - 3. The parable of the talents illustrates this principle
Matt 25:14-30
- D. Have you done and are you doing as much as you know to do for the Lord with what you have available to you in time, ability, resources, etc.?

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Lord said this man acted wisely, not because of his dishonesty, but because of his resourcefulness in using what he had available to him.
- B. In fact, Jesus said the people of this world are wiser than the children of light.
- C. Are you as wise as this dishonest man in making preparation for the future?
 - 1. He believed what his master said
 - 2. He recognized the true condition of his own life
 - 3. He became aware that he had to do something, he realized the sense of urgency in this matter
 - 4. He used what was available to him to make his future as secure as possible
- D. Our Master has spoken Heb 1:1,2
 - 1. Do you believe Him? Jhn 20:30-31
 - 2. You can see yourself in the mirror of God's word Jas 1:25
 - 3. He has told you how to make you future secure Mk 16:16
1Cor 15:58
 - 4. Will you do what you can and must to make your future secure?
 - 5. Now is the time to make our future secure 2Cor 6:2
 - a. You can obey the Gospel and be saved
 - b. You can use your ability in service to the Lord