



Small group study materials, September 2019

Chapter & verse – Rosalind Selby (page 11)

Read Luke 16:1-13, followed by Rosalind Selby’s article.

1. Rosalind begins by describing this parable as one that ‘many of us might feel puzzled mightily by’. What were your first impressions of this parable, and of the rich man’s manager? Can you relate to why Rosalind was left scratching her head?
2. Jesus tells us in this parable that ‘the master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly’, and that people of the world are more shrewd than ‘people of the light’. What do you understand by shrewdness? Is it a welcome characteristic in God’s Kingdom?
3. Rosalind considers the theory, in paragraph four, that the manager’s actions are commendable because they prevent his boss from being usurious. How convincing do you find this theory? Why?
4. Next, Rosalind presents the theory that the manager waives his commission to advance his career. Do you find this theory more convincing?
5. ‘This story takes seriously the reality of the compromises we often have to live with,’ Rosalind says, using it as an illustration of original sin – the sins we are inevitably drawn into just by being alive. What examples of such unavoidable compromises can you think of? Do you find Karl Rahner’s definition of original sin (see paragraph six) a good one?
6. Jesus commends trustworthiness at the end of this parable. How does trustworthiness manifest itself? What other characteristics does God require of us?

For further reflection: ‘Whoever increases wealth by taking interest or profit from the poor amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.’ Proverbs 28:8

Prayer: Father, help us to honour you in the way we deal with money. May we act wisely and well, and put whatever we have to good use, so that your Kingdom may come. Amen.



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