



T.G.I.M.

Trust Factor

#NPTGI

Week 2
2 of 4
September 11, 2016

Bottom Line: God is more concerned with your character than your career.

Icebreaker: How is your career making you a better follower of Jesus?

Key Verse: *“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. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.” Luke 16:8-10*

This parable may seem odd to us because Jesus seemingly commends the manager that is earlier seen to be dishonest. Verses 8-10 are a series of short teachings on the parable that help us understand it better. The landowner is praised because the manager acted shrewdly in response to his errors, not because he was dishonest. Jesus does not want His disciples to be dishonest or underhanded in the way they go about their calling in life. However, Jesus commends the manager for having the foresight to see beyond the present moment. Money is not the goal in life. We use our careers and money to prepare us for the life that is to come.

In the last half of verse 8 and all of verse 9, Jesus shares an implication of the story: Unbelievers typically deal shrewdly with each other and win friends by this means, whereas believers often fail to utilize their financial resources to win people to the faith, thus becoming friends forever. Jesus encouraged His followers to use their money shrewdly but innocently in order to advance God's kingdom. We model the tactics, but not the character.

As you work, you are being offered the chance to become more like Jesus. When we see our careers as a platform to share the gospel and grow to be more like Jesus, it changes everything about the way we work. Developing our character is a more important goal than advancing up the corporate ladder in our career.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said I need to focus on what I can control by . . .

- having a positive attitude
- having a bias toward action
- growing myself
- having a servant mindset

How would you define “shrewd”? When is shrewdness a negative quality? How is it a positive quality in this parable?

In what way does Jesus teach us to be like the dishonest manager? In what ways are we to be different than the dishonest manager?

How can you leverage your job to build your character?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

How do we become adept at recognizing the gap between where we are and where Christ is leading us? How can you use your career to close this gap? What source outside of your career is better at closing it?

Christ wants to modify our character to make it more like His. How do we pursue this honest and good goal without falling into the trap of thinking that our behavior modification is earning us favor before God?

We are called to be faithful in all things. Where is one small area that you can seek to grow in faithfulness this week?

How is God shaping you right now? How will you express gratitude for that formative work of the Spirit in your life?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. We grow better when we develop accountability with other people. What is one area you want to grow in? Link arms with another person in this group for regular checkups. Share your growth area with each other and help one another stay on track.
2. Thank God for showing you the gift of knowing Him. Thank Him for being concerned about all of who you are, and give your character to Him as a blank check. Ask Him what needs to be refined, and allow Him to work in your life. Offer Him your obedience and love as a gift.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: God is more concerned with your character than your career.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Luke 16:11-13

Day 2: Matthew 6:33

Day 3: Acts 18:1-4

Day 4: 1 Corinthians 10:31

Day 5: Hebrews 11:6

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)