

RESOLVED
Luke 16:4
By Raymond White

This parable of the Unjust Steward is one of the trickiest things that Jesus said. How can it be that a crook is worthy of praise, as this Unjust Steward appears to be? Well, that's a subject for another writing. The subject for this writing is that in middle of this odd parable we find a seldom talked about virtue: the virtue of making a decision and sticking with it.

Luke 16:4 I am resolved what to do...

Whatever you think of this steward — incompetent nincompoop, devious crook, brilliant businessman worthy of praise — you have to give him one thing anyway: he made a decision (right or wrong, smart or stupid) and he ran with it. Sometimes you have to make a decision without clarity. Sometimes you just have to take your best shot. He “resolved” to do something.

So, in the spirit of “doing something,” which is sometimes all that's left to do, here is my list of goals, resolutions, for when you feel a need to change, to improve, to “do something.”

[1] BE A “NOW” PERSON

Some things you must do now, right now, or never. Certain work, certain projects, just cannot wait one more day or even one more hour. You know when time is of the essence, so, what are you waiting for? Get on with it.

*Proverbs 6:10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep. :11
So shall thy poverty come as one that travaileth.*

Just as surely (and irreversibly) as a pregnant woman will go into labor and have a baby, that's how surely a lazy person who procrastinates and procrastinates will go broke. Here's a saying I love: “Procrastination is the grave in which opportunity is buried.”

[2] BE A “POW” PERSON

Whatever you do, do it with the energy of determination. Someone said: “Clear your mind of can't.” Good advice. Attack each problem as though you are at war with it, for indeed you are. Don't just try to do a thing, fight for it. Yoda said, “Do or do not. There is no try.”

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith.

[3] BE A “WOW” PERSON

An old Ziggy cartoon that I clipped and kept says, “Happiness is seeing the sunrise and knowing who to thank.” Ziggy was a wise philosopher. After all, why shouldn't you be happy? Be impressed by all that God has done for you. It really is a beautiful world.

1 Timothy 6:17 ...God... giveth us all things richly to enjoy.

[4] BE A “BOW” PERSON

While we are appreciating all that God has given us, we really should also resolve to submit to him. First, because he deserves our obedience. But second, because by submitting to him, we insure that we will continue to enjoy his blessings. God is not a cosmic party-poop. He wants us to be happy. But the way to continue to be happy is to live life as God wants us to.

Romans 14:11 As I liveth, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me...

[5] BE A “VOW” PERSON

Whatever resolutions you make, vows, promises, you really need to keep them. If you won't, than what's the point? The point of making a vow is to motivate yourself to keep it. Here's a challenge: If you want to vow to lose weight, don't make that vow on New Year's day, make it on Thanksgiving Day, before dinner I mean. Just a thought.

2 Corinthians 8:11 Now therefore perform the doing of it.

[6] BE A “HOW” PERSON

Determination is seldom enough. Success needs a workable plan. It's fine to pursue a goal with your heart, but you must also pursue it with your brain. God doesn't reward stupidity. Pay attention to “how.” Think. Then act.

Matthew 10:16 Be ye therefore wise as serpents.

[7] BE AN “OW” PERSON

Some prizes must be painfully won. Sacrifice is the final ingredient and the one that most often separates winners from losers. Most often, the difference between achieving a goal and not is simply whether or not you will pay the price.

1 Peter 2:21 Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.