

High School Bible Study written by Lynn Schlessman

CAST

Mr. Pinkerton -

Carolyn –

Christine –

Nate –

Brad –

Ellen –

Jesus –

Rich man –

Manager –

First Debtor –

Second Debtor –

(Carolyn, Christine and Mr. Pinkerton all enter together)

Mr. Pinkerton (as they are sitting down): That was some great snow yesterday!

Carolyn: I'm sure glad you are the Ski Club advisor this year.

Mr. Pinkerton: That is certainly the best job I ever volunteered for.

Christine: Did you see Tony when he wiped out? I thought he'd broken every bone in his body.

Mr. Pinkerton: Missed that one. But I sure heard everyone talking about it on the bus. I am glad he landed in some powder.

(Brad, Nate and Ellen enter while she is talking)

Ellen: Hi everyone. Missed you at the game last night.

Carolyn: We got back late from skiing.

Mr. Pinkerton: Hi Brad, Nate.

Brad: Hi.

Nate: Any of you have tickets to the _____ concert tonight? My dad was able to get some near the stage. He knows the promoter.

Ellen: Lucky you.

Mr. Pinkerton: Time to get started. Would one of you lead us in prayer? (Period of silence follows)

Christine: I guess I can. (pause) Dear God, we thank you for the awesome world you have created, for snow and trees and hills, and for Jesus. Help us as we study your Word today. Amen.

Mr. Pinkerton: Does anyone remember where we left off?

Nate: Last week we talked about that older brother who wouldn't come into the party.

Brad: Yeah, he's the one who is like all those adults that are always criticizing our music and our clothes – the ones who think that life shouldn't be any fun.

Mr. Pinkerton: That's right – we talked about the Parable of the Prodigal Son last time. Let's move on to Luke 16.

Ellen: I'll read. "Then Jesus said to his disciples.....(students freeze in place)

(Jesus is surrounded by his disciples.)

Jesus: There was a rich man whose manager was accused of squandering the man's property. (Jesus and the disciples freeze)

Manager: You sent for me?

Rich man: What is this I hear about you – that you have been wasting my money. Give an account of your management, for you cannot manage my property any longer.

(Manager leaves and moves across stage as Jesus speaks)

Jesus: The manager said to himself, "I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I will do so that, when I have lost my job, people will welcome me into their homes.

Manager (encountering first debtor): How much do you owe my master?

First debtor: Eight hundred gallons of olive oil.

Manager: Take your note and write down four hundred.

Manager (encountering second debtor): How much do you owe?

Second debtor: A thousand bushels of wheat.

Manager: Take your note and write, eight hundred.

(Manager and debtors walk off)

Jesus: and the master praised the dishonest manager for acting so shrewdly. For in dealing with their own kind of people the children of this world are shrewder than the children of the light. (Jesus and disciples freeze in place)

Ellen: That makes no sense at all. He was a crook – no owner would praise a crook for stealing from him.

Nate: It's like the dishonest one is the hero of this story. I don't get it.

Brad: But didn't you hear that last line – that the children of the world are shrewder than the children of the light? Think of the people on the reality show - Survivor – they know what they want and they do whatever it takes to get it.

Christine: But that doesn't make them good.

Brad: That is not the point – I think Jesus wants his followers to be as committed to God's agenda as people on reality shows are to winning.

Mr. Pinkerton: That makes sense to me, Brad. Let's read on to see what more Jesus says. (Bible study people freeze)

Jesus: I tell you: Win friends for yourselves with the worldly wealth that is often used in wrong ways so that when it is gone you will be welcomed into everlasting homes. (pause) No slave can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other or he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Carolyn: I've never heard that before. Did Jesus really say, "you cannot serve God and money"?

Brad: That's what he said. I don't know if I agree with it but that is what he said.

Christine: Don't we have to agree with what Jesus says?

Mr. Pinkerton: I don't know about "have to" but I would hope we would "want to".

Nate: Ever since I can remember my dad has told me I need to keep my grades up so I can get into a good college and get a good-paying job.

Ellen: Yeah, I hear that line, too.

Nate: You would think that if he is really serious about Jesus that he wouldn't care so much about my making a lot of money.

Carolyn: But money is important. If my folks did not make much money I wouldn't be in ski club – I'd have to get a job instead.

Ellen: I'm thinking about what Brad said earlier. God wants Christians to be as devoted to God as the survivors are to winning. We should do more to help people who suffer.

Christine: Like who?

Ellen: Like AIDS orphans in Africa. If all the Christians in the world really cared about them think of the medicine and schools they could have.

Carolyn: I've noticed how much the pastors talk about God's love for all people but I don't see anyone really trying to change the way things are.

Nate: But when it comes time to raise money for a building addition at church then the pastors get serious.

Brad: If we cannot serve God and money, then which are we serving?

Christine: Most everyone I know is serving money.

Carolyn: I hardly see my dad – he goes to work early and gets home late when he IS in town. He says he does it for us but I think he does it because money is most important.

Ellen: My mom talks about how great it will be when she can retire – sometimes it feels like at our house no one is really living now.

Mr. Pinkerton: I hear us talking about everyone else – do you think you will do any different?

Nate: It seems like at school there are two groups – those who have and those who don't. Some have clothes and cars and tickets to see the Cavs or _____ and some don't. I can't imagine living without those things.

Carolyn: I'd really like to change the way the world is but I don't think I can make much difference. It would take lots of people working together to really change things.

Brad: That is what Jesus is trying to do - to get us all on the same page. Jesus wants us to serve God and not money.

Ellen: Jesus knows it will never happen. He said the children of this world are shrewder than the children of the light.

Brad: But Jesus doesn't want it to be that way.

Nate: Jesus is fighting a losing battle. Money will win.

Christine: Well, it doesn't really matter. Jesus died on the cross so we could be forgiven. God loves us. That is all I need to know.

Brad: But Jesus thought it was important that his followers knew that they could not have two masters - God and money.

Ellen: I think Jesus told us that because he does love us. Jesus doesn't want us to ruin our lives serving the wrong master.

Christine: I'll bet Jesus would not have died on the cross if he had served money rather than God. It looks to me like those with lots of money have it pretty good.

Brad: I guess you just have to trust that Jesus knew what he was talking about.

Ellen: And live by what he says.

Nate: Or take your chances with money.

Mr. Pinkerton: Time will tell. And speaking of time our time is up. I will lead us in prayer: Jesus, you have really challenged us with your word, today. Plant your word deep in our hearts and let your word grow in us. Help us to bear much fruit. Amen.