

LIVING *a better* STORY

A SERIES *on* THE PARABLES



THE PARABLE *of*
the SHREWD MANAGER

LUKE 16:1-13

Jesus told this story to his disciples:

“There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his Employer’s money. So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order—you’re going to be fired.’

“The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg. Ah, I know how to ensure that I’ll have plenty of friends who’ll give me a home when I am fired.’

LUKE 16:1-13

“So he invited each one who owed his employer money to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe him?’ The man replied, ‘I owe 800 gallons of olive oil.’ So the manager told him, ‘Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.’

“‘And how much do you owe my employer?’ he asked the next man. ‘I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,’ was the reply. ‘Here,’ the manager said, ‘take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.’

LUKE 16:1-13

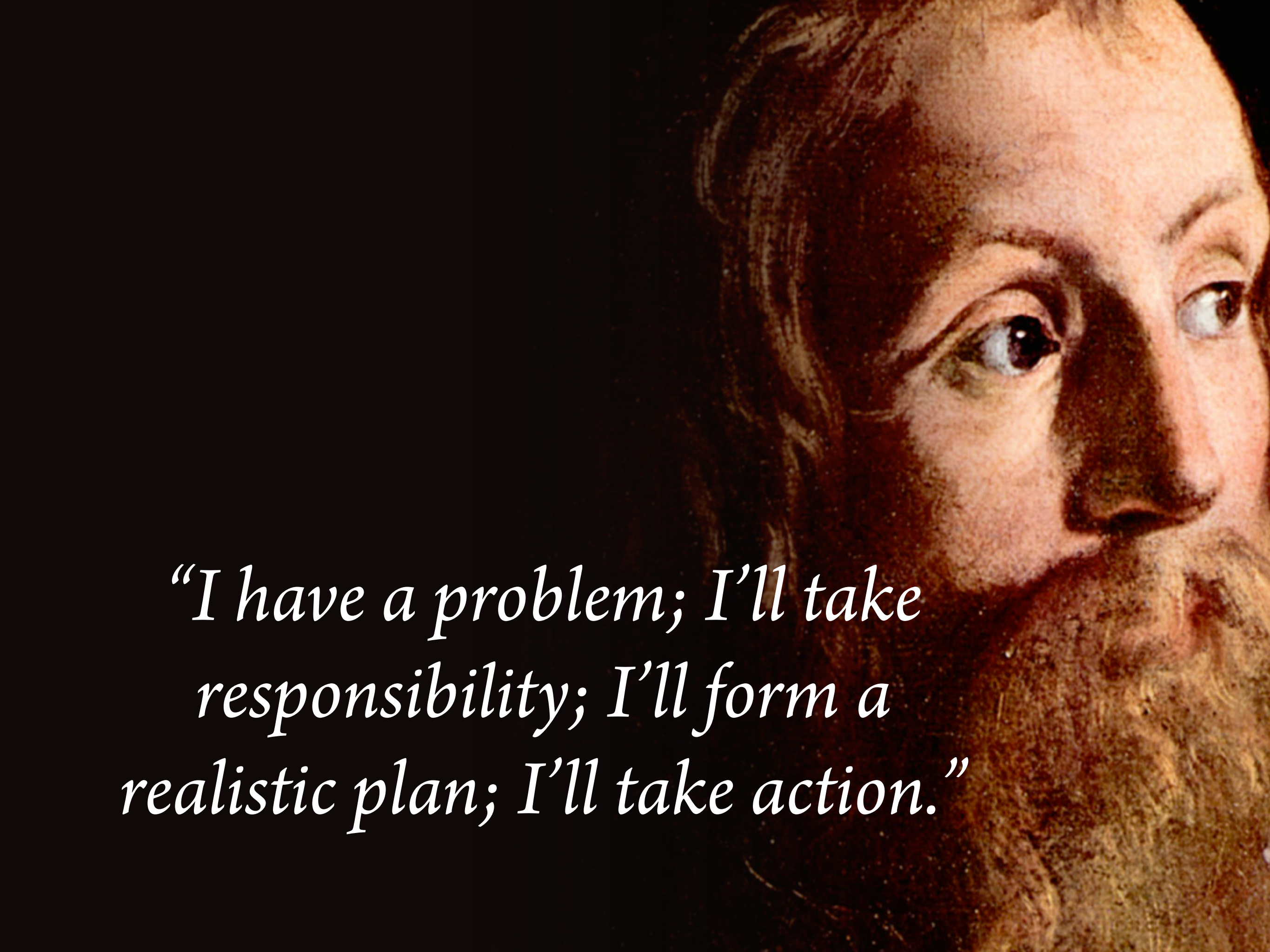
“The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it’s true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they’ll welcome you to an eternal home.

LUKE 16:1-13

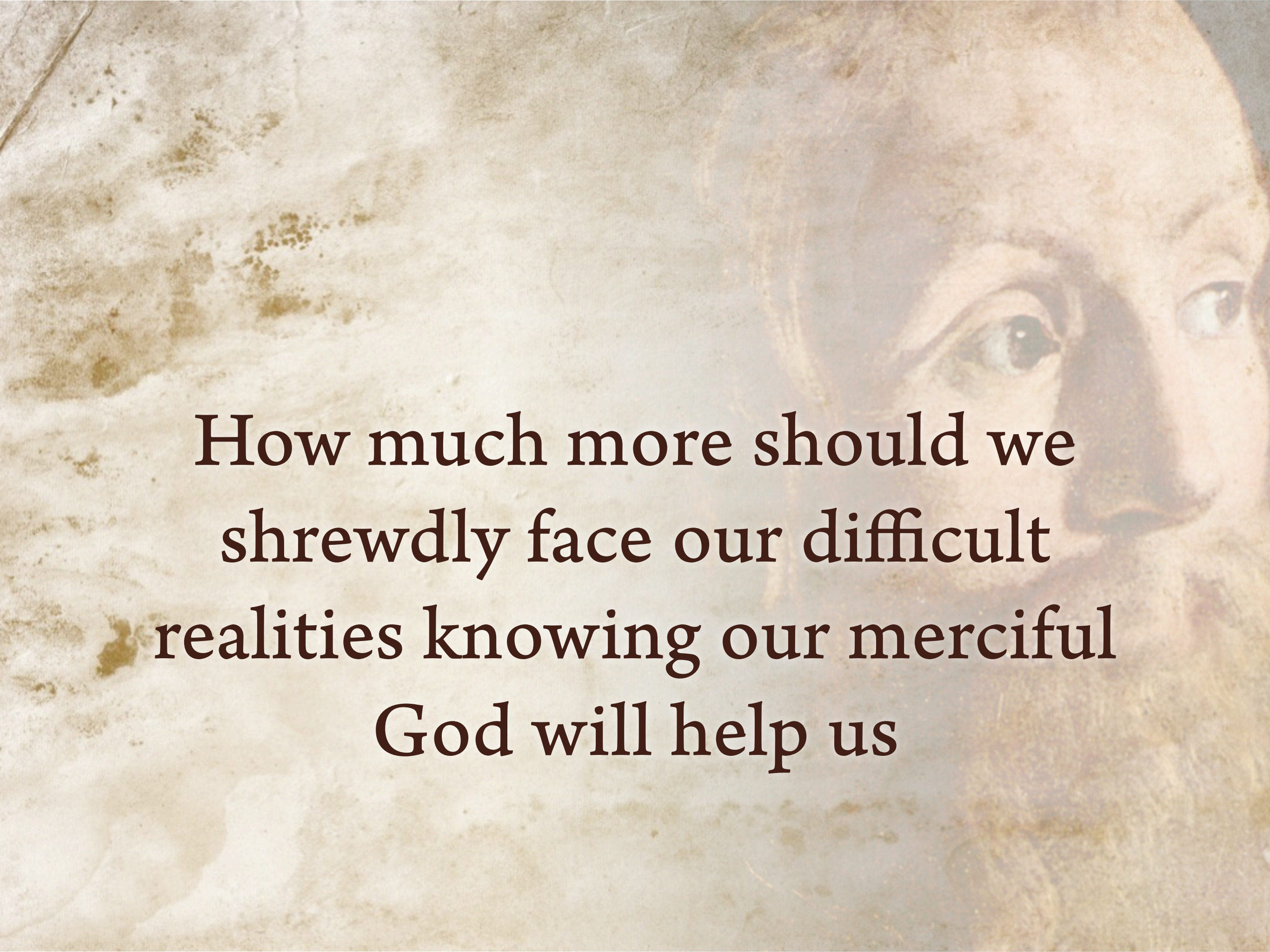
“If you’re faithful in little things, you’ll be faithful in large ones. But if you’re dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you’re untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who’ll trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you’re not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? No one can serve two masters. For you’ll hate one and love the other; you’ll be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”



Jesus is commending
the business manager's
dedication to dealing
with REALITY.

A close-up, high-contrast portrait of a man with long, wavy brown hair and a full, dark beard. He is looking slightly to the right of the frame with a serious expression. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of his hair and beard against a dark background.

*“I have a problem; I’ll take
responsibility; I’ll form a
realistic plan; I’ll take action.”*



**How much more should we
shrewdly face our difficult
realities knowing our merciful
God will help us**

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LAWS *of* SHREWDNESS

#1 LAW *of* RESPONSIBILITY

“Now what? My boss has fired me.”

VERSE 3

4

LAWS *of* SHREWDNESS

#2 LAW *of* HARVEST

“I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg.”

VERSE 3

*We must
habitually
assess the
effects of our
actions*

WE REAP
WHAT WE SOW



4 LAWS *of* SHREWDNESS

#3 LAW *of* PROACTIVITY

“Ah, I know what I’ll do.”

VERSE 4

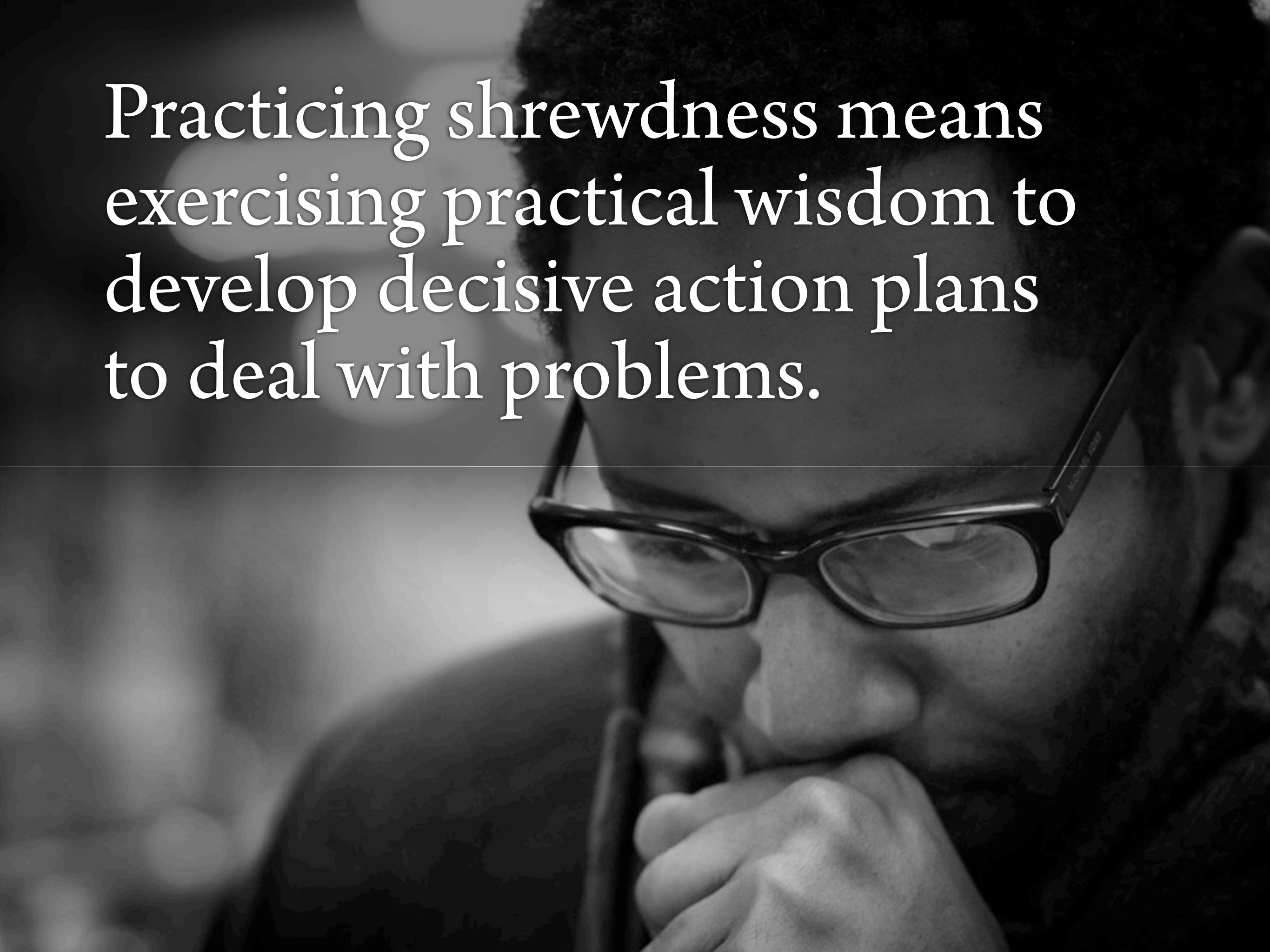
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LAWS *of* SHREWDNESS

#3 LAW *of* PROACTIVITY

“It’s true: the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light.”

VERSE 8



Practicing shrewdness means
exercising practical wisdom to
develop decisive action plans
to deal with problems.

4 LAWS *of* SHREWDNESS

#4 LAW *of* INITIATIVE

“He invited each one who owed his employer money to come and discuss his “plan”.”

VERSE 5



*To practice shrewdness means
that at the right moment, I must
courageously and resolutely act!*

LUKE 16:1-13

“The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it’s true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they’ll welcome you to an eternal home.

What you do **NOW**
affects who you will be
in **ETERNITY.**

“If you can be trusted with a little, you’ll be trusted with a lot.”

VERSE 10

What you do **NOW** to deal with your reality **MATTERS TO GOD.**

“No one can serve two masters.”

VERSE 13

Your life is *not* your own;
IT BELONGS TO GOD.