

Introduction - The Amazing John Saville!

- Our "Secret Pact"
 - John had a desire!
 - I had an opportunity!
 - We made a deal!
- Three Things Happened in My Life
 1. Rarely a day went by that I didn't think of John. Every need raised the question - "What would John want me to do?"
 2. I strangely became far more meticulous about balancing "his checkbook" than my own.
 3. John and I became best friends as he bought extravagant lunches and I told extraordinary stories at our quarterly celebrations.

The genius behind the in-depth relationship I enjoyed with John Saville is breakthrough concept #2. . .

Generosity Breakthrough Concept #2

- **God owns everything. I am His money manager.**

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."
(Ps 24:1)*

*"'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty."
(Haggai 2:8)*

*"But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to
produce wealth..."
(Deuteronomy 8:18)*

*"You are not your own; you were bought at a price."
(1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a)*

Summary – The "Oikonomia" Principle - All that we are, and all that we have belongs to God and has been temporarily entrusted to us to manage according to His wishes.

*¹Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and **stewards** of the mysteries of God. ²In this case, moreover, it is required of **stewards** that one be found trustworthy.*

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NASB)

Jesus Teaches Us How to Become Wise Stewards

- **The Setting** – Correction of the Pharisees and instruction of His disciples concerning wealth.

- **The Story** – Luke 16:1-11
 - Mismanagement occurs and dismissal soon to follow.
 - Two options considered and a third taken.
 - A commendation by the owner – a good lesson from a bad example – “He was shrewd.”
 - The dishonest manager used his present temporal opportunities (stewardship) with a view of receiving future rewards. This made good business sense and according to Jesus, makes good spiritual sense as well.

- **The Teaching** – Faithfulness with material wealth is a prerequisite to being entrusted with spiritual wealth and rewards.

¹⁰“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. ¹¹“Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?”

Luke 16:10-11 (NASB)

Application: Three Questions Wise Stewards Regularly Ask

1. Am I using the money entrusted to me in accordance with the **Owner's** wishes?
2. Am I carefully keeping account of where all the **Owner's** funds are going?
3. Am I becoming "best friends" with the "**Owner**" by the privilege and opportunity of managing His resources?

Epilogue:

The Amazing John Saville Story Continues . . . Forever!

I _____ want to develop a deep, personal relationship with you dear God. Today I recognize that all I have and all I am belongs to You. I commit today to discover by Your grace, where and how to invest the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to me. Amen!