

Becoming Smart

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There is a passage in the Bible where Jesus might be saying something very significant to people of some wealth. It's about the dishonest manager in the parable of Luke 16. It seems like a strange parable because Jesus says, "The people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of light." Then he says, "Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." What does he mean?

I like to think that Jesus is telling us that we children of the light are not very smart when it comes to looking ahead into eternity. If we were as savvy as the people of the world we would be thinking of our stay in heaven and how what we do on the earth will affect that existence. In doing the work of Jesus here on the earth of caring for the hungry, the naked, the sick, etc, and spreading his good news we find joy, meaning and significance. But many times we don't know how those good deeds have helped others. In heaven, I believe, all that will be out in the open. Could it be that when we use our money to help others here that, in so doing, those others will be eternal friends in heaven? The apostle Paul (I Cor. 5:24,25) says, "The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them." But now listen to this, "IN THE SAME WAY, good deeds are obvious and even those that are not, CANNOT BE HIDDEN." Just like sins cannot be hidden, in the same way good deeds cannot be either. It sounds like all the good deeds done here on the earth will be obvious in eternity. Could it even be that something so small as making it possible for a child to be relieved of their worms that that child will recognize with gratitude who made it possible? Might it be something like, "Oh, you are the one who helped me get rid of those awful worms! Come in!" If giving a cup of cold water deserves a reward why not the giving of a worm pill?