

# Luke 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

## Analysis

Jesus concludes the parable: 'And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their wisdom wiser than the children of light.' The master commends (ἐπήνεσεν, epēnesen, praised) 'the unjust steward' (τὸν οἰκονόμον τῆς ἀδικίας, ton oikonomon tēs adikias)—not his dishonesty but his shrewdness in securing his future. The comparison 'children of this world' versus 'children of light' is striking: worldly people show more strategic wisdom in securing temporal futures than believers show in securing eternal ones. This parable doesn't endorse dishonesty but challenges Christians to be as intentional about eternal investments as the world is about temporal ones. Use resources strategically for kingdom purposes.

## Historical Context

The parable of the unjust steward (Luke 16:1-8) is among Jesus' most puzzling teachings. The key is understanding what's commended: not the theft but the foresight. The steward, facing unemployment, used his remaining authority to create future security by making friends who would receive him. Jesus' point: if even corrupt people act shrewdly to secure temporary futures, how much more should Christians invest wisely for eternity? The teaching critiques believers' frequent short-sightedness—we claim to believe in eternal realities yet live as if only this world matters. True wisdom recognizes earthly life as brief preparation for eternal existence.

## Related Passages

---

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the shrewdness commended here differ from worldly wisdom condemned elsewhere in Scripture?
2. What does it mean practically to be as strategic about eternal investments as worldly people are about temporal ones?
3. How should belief in eternal rewards and punishments shape present financial and life decisions?

## Interlinear Text

---

καὶ ἐπήνεσεν ὁ κύριος τὸν οἰκονόμον τῆς ἀδικίας  
And commended the lord steward the unjust  
G2532 G1867 G3588 G2962 G3623 G3588 G93

ὅτι φρονίμως ἐποίησεν· ὅτι οἱ υἱοὺς τοῦ  
because wisely he had done because the children to  
G3754 G5430 G4160 G3754 G3588 G5207 G3588

αἰῶνος τούτου φρονιμώτεροι ὑπὲρ τοὺς υἱοὺς τοῦ  
world of this wiser than the children to  
G165 G5127 G5429 G5228 G3588 G5207 G3588

φωτὸς εἰς τὴν γενεὰν τὴν ἐαυτῶν εἰσιν  
of light in G3588 generation G3588 their are  
G5457 G1519 G1074 G1438 G1526

## Additional Cross-References

---

**1 Thessalonians 5:5** (Light): Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

**Ephesians 5:8** (Light): For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

**John 12:36** (Light): While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

**Luke 16:10** (Righteousness): He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

**Genesis 3:1** (References Lord): Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

**Luke 16:4** (Parallel theme): I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.