

Luke 1:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

Analysis

God's filling the hungry with good things while sending the rich away empty articulates divine justice and mercy. The 'hungry' represents those who recognize their spiritual poverty and need, while the 'rich' symbolizes those satisfied with worldly possessions and self-sufficiency. This doesn't merely describe economic redistribution but spiritual reality—those aware of their need receive God's gracious provision, while those trusting in themselves remain empty. This principle appears throughout Scripture (Beatitudes, Matt 5:3-6; Luke 6:20-26; Jas 2:5) and challenges both material wealth and spiritual pride. The rich are sent away empty not arbitrarily but because they won't acknowledge their need.

Historical Context

Mary's words reflect Old Testament promises of God providing for the needy (1 Sam 2:5; Ps 107:9; Isa 55:1-2). Her emphasis would challenge both wealthy Sadducees and self-righteous Pharisees while offering hope to the poor and marginalized who would comprise Jesus's primary audience.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does spiritual hunger look like compared to self-satisfied richness?
2. How does material wealth often blind people to spiritual poverty?
3. What good things does God provide to those who recognize their need?

Interlinear Text

πεινῶντας ἐνέπλησεν ἀγαθῶν καὶ πλουτοῦντας
the hungry He hath filled with good things and the rich
G3983 G1705 G18 G2532 G4147

ἔξαπέστειλεν κενούς
away empty
G1821 G2756

Additional Cross-References

Luke 6:21 (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

Psalms 34:10 (Good): The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Matthew 5:6 (Parallel theme): Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Luke 6:24 (Parallel theme): But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.

1 Corinthians 1:26 (Parallel theme): For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

John 6:35 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

1 Samuel 2:5 (Parallel theme): They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

Psalms 146:7 (Parallel theme): Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners:

1 Corinthians 4:8 (Parallel theme): Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.

Ezekiel 34:29 (Parallel theme): And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more.

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