

Luke 11:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.

Analysis

But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you (πλὴν τὰ ἐνόντα δότε ἐλεημοσύνην, καὶ ἴδοὺ πάντα καθαρὰ ὑμῖν ἔστιν)—Jesus prescribes the remedy: *eleēmosunē* (alms, charitable giving) from 'that which is within' (ta enonta). True purity flows from a transformed heart expressing itself in compassion, not ritual compliance. **All things are clean unto you**—comprehensive cleanliness comes through inner generosity, not outer ceremony.

This radically reorients purity: it's relational (toward the poor) not ceremonial (ritual washing). The Pharisees hoarded wealth while obsessing over vessel-cleaning; Jesus commands generosity as evidence of heart transformation. Internal purity transforms how one engages all of life, including material possessions.

Historical Context

Almsgiving was central to Jewish piety (alongside prayer and fasting), but Pharisees often publicized their charity for honor (Matthew 6:2). Jesus calls for sincere generosity flowing from inner transformation. The Talmud later taught 'charity equals all the commandments,' reflecting Judaism's recognition of compassion's centrality—yet many religious leaders gave minimally while extracting maximum tithes from the poor.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does your use of money reveal your heart's true priorities?
2. Why might generous compassion toward the poor accomplish what ritual purity practices cannot?
3. What 'internal cleanliness' are you neglecting while maintaining external religious performance?

Interlinear Text

πλὴν	τὰ	ἐνόντα	δότε	ἐλεημοσύνην	καὶ
But rather	G3588	of such things as ye have	give	alms	and
G4133		G1751	G1325	G1654	G2532
ἰδού,	πάντα	καθαρὰ	ὑμῖν	ἐστιν	
behold	all things	clean	unto you	are	
G2400	G3956	G2513	G5213	G2076	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:33 (Parallel theme): Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

James 1:27 (Parallel theme): Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Titus 1:15 (Parallel theme): Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

Hebrews 13:16 (Parallel theme): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Acts 10:15 (Parallel theme): And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

Proverbs 19:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Proverbs 14:31 (Parallel theme): He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

Luke 16:9 (Parallel theme): And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

Daniel 4:27 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

Hebrews 6:10 (Parallel theme): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.