

Luke 14:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

Analysis

The first excuse: 'And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.' The phrase 'they all with one consent' (ἵσταντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς πάντες παραίτεσθαι, ἔρχαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς πάντες παραίτεσθαι) indicates unanimous rejection. The first excuse involves property—'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it.' The claim 'I must needs' (ἔχω ἀνάγκην, *echō anagkēn*) suggests urgency, but this is absurd—who buys land without first inspecting it? The excuse reveals that earthly possessions take priority over divine invitation. Jesus exposes how materialism prevents kingdom participation.

Historical Context

In ancient Palestine, land ownership conveyed status and security. Purchasing property was significant. However, the excuse's transparency—claiming urgent need to inspect already-purchased land—indicates the invitation's rejection is willful, not circumstantial. The first century was marked by economic expansion under Roman rule, creating opportunities for accumulating wealth. Jesus consistently warned against letting material pursuits eclipse eternal priorities (Luke 12:15-21, 16:19-31, 18:18-27). The parable teaches that prosperity can be spiritually dangerous, blinding people to their need for God.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does materialism prevent people from responding to the gospel today?
2. What contemporary equivalents to 'I must see my land' do people use to excuse spiritual neglect?
3. How can Christians guard against letting legitimate pursuits (career, property, investments) become idols that displace God?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς παρητημένον πάντες ὁ
And consent began with G1520 excused they all G3588
G2532 G756 G575 G3868 G3956 G3588

πρῶτος εἶπεν αὐτόν· Ἀγρὸν ἡγόρασα καὶ ἔχε
The first said it a piece of ground I have bought And I must
G4413 G2036 G686 G68 G59 G2532 G2192

ἀνάγκην ἔξελθεῖν καὶ ίδεῖν αὐτόν· ἐρωτῶ σε ἔχε με
needs go And see it I pray thee I must me
G318 G1831 G2532 G1492 G846 G2065 G4571 G2192 G3165

παρητημένον
excused
G3868

Additional Cross-References

Luke 18:24 (Parallel theme): And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

John 5:40 (Parallel theme): And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

John 1:11 (Parallel theme): He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Luke 8:14 (Parallel theme): And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

2 Timothy 4:4 (Parallel theme): And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Hebrews 12:16 (Parallel theme): Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Jeremiah 6:10 (Parallel theme): To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

2 Timothy 4:10 (Parallel theme): For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.