

Luke 14:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Analysis

It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear (οὔτε εἰς γῆν οὔτε εἰς κοπρίαν εὐθετόν ἐστιν· ἔξω βάλλουσιν αὐτό. Ὁ ἔχων ὦτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω)—worthless salt is euthe-ton (fit, suitable) for nothing—not eis gēn (for the land, as fertilizer) nor eis koprian (for the dunghill, as compost). Men exō ballousin (cast it out, throw it away). The repetition of worthlessness emphasizes total uselessness.

Jesus warns that compromised disciples are worthless for kingdom purposes and will be discarded. This echoes Matthew 5:13: salt losing its savor is 'good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.' The solemn conclusion—**He that hath ears to hear, let him hear**—signals critical importance. This isn't casual teaching but urgent warning about spiritual fruitlessness leading to divine rejection.

Historical Context

The imagery of being cast out likely connects to Gehenna (hell)—Jerusalem's garbage dump where worthless refuse burned perpetually. Jesus frequently used Gehenna imagery for final judgment (Mark 9:43-48). Worthless salt thrown away prefigures worthless professors cast into eternal fire. The warning targets those who profess discipleship but refuse discipleship's cost (vv.26-27, 33).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this passage challenge 'easy believism' or cultural Christianity that costs nothing and changes nothing?
2. What does it mean to be 'fit for nothing'—how might religious profession without transformation lead to divine rejection?
3. Do you have 'ears to hear' this warning, or are you dismissing its severity as applying to others but not you?

Interlinear Text

οὔτε	εἰς	γῆν	οὔτε	εἰς	κοπρίαν	εὐθετόν	ἐστιν	ἔξω
neither	for	the land	neither	for	the dunghill	fit	It is	out
G3777	G1519	G1093	G3777	G1519	G2874	G2111	G2076	G1854
βάλλουσιν	αὐτό	ὁ	ἔχων	ᾗ	τα	ἀκούετω	ἀκούετω	
but men cast	it	G3588	He that hath	ears	let him hear	let him hear		
G906	G846		G2192	G3775	G191	G191		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 11:15 (Parallel theme): He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.