

Luke 19:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

Analysis

Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds (Κύριε, ἡ μὴ σου δέκα προσηργάσατο μνᾶς, Kyrie, hē mna sou deka prosērgasato mnas)—a tenfold return demonstrating extraordinary faithfulness. The servant uses the possessive sou (your), acknowledging that both the original capital and the gains belong to the master. The verb prosergazomai (to gain in addition) emphasizes productive labor, not speculation or luck.

The servant gives a simple report without excuses, explanations, or self-congratulation. His 1,000% return wasn't mentioned as personal achievement but as the master's possession multiplied. This models proper stewardship: recognizing that gifts, opportunities, and results all belong to God. Paul captured this: 'What hast thou that thou didst not receive?' (1 Corinthians 4:7). Kingdom work produces supernatural multiplication when faithful servants invest divine resources in gospel advance.

Historical Context

A tenfold return would be considered phenomenal in ancient economics, where 5-10% annual returns were typical. This wasn't normal business success but extraordinary kingdom fruitfulness. In agrarian Palestine, a hundredfold harvest was miraculous (Mark 4:8); similarly, tenfold trading gains demonstrated unusual blessing on faithful labor. The first-century audience understood this wasn't describing ordinary economic activity but spiritual kingdom multiplication.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does attributing both resources and results to God ('thy pound hath gained') shape your view of ministry success?
2. What prevents you from the kind of bold, risk-taking faithfulness that produces tenfold returns?
3. How can you distinguish between faithful stewardship and mere activity that produces no kingdom multiplication?

Interlinear Text

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| παρεγένετο | δὲ | ὁ | πρῶτος | λέγων, | Κύριε | ἡ | μνᾶς | σου |
| came | Then | G3588 | the first | saying | Lord | G3588 | pound | thy |
| G3854 | G1161 | | G4413 | G3004 | G2962 | | G3414 | G4675 |
| προσειργάσατο | δέκα | μνᾶς | | | | | | |
| hath gained | ten | pound | | | | | | |
| G4333 | G1176 | G3414 | | | | | | |