

Luke 19:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

Analysis

And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds (καὶ ἥλθεν ὁ δεύτερος λέγων· Ἡ μνᾶ σου, κύριε, ἐποίησεν πέντε μνᾶς, kai ēlthen ho deuteros legōn· Hē mna sou, kyrie, epoīēsen pente mnas)—a 500% return, still excellent though half that of the first servant. The verb poieō (to make, produce) differs slightly from verse 16's prosergazomai (to gain by trading), but both indicate active, productive stewardship.

Significantly, Jesus gives no criticism of the lesser return. The parable emphasizes faithfulness with what was entrusted, not competition between servants. Different servants produce different results based on opportunities, abilities, and circumstances, but God evaluates faithfulness to what each received. This counters both envy ('Why didn't I receive more?') and pride ('Look how much I produced!'). Paul taught this principle: ministers are fellow workers, but 'God gave the increase' (1 Corinthians 3:6-9).

Historical Context

A fivefold return still represented extraordinary success in the ancient economy. The parable's structure—presenting two faithful servants before the unfaithful one—builds dramatic tension while establishing that varying levels of productivity all receive commendation if they represent genuine engagement with the master's resources. The first-century audience would recognize that both servants

succeeded remarkably; the contrast comes with the third servant's complete failure.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How can you battle comparison and competition with other believers while pursuing faithful stewardship?
2. What does God's equal pleasure with different levels of fruitfulness teach about His evaluation of your service?
3. How should understanding that 'God gave the increase' shape your response to both success and limited results?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἦλθεν ὁ δεύτερος λέγων, Κύριε Ὁ μνᾶς σου
And came G3588 the second saying Lord G3588 pound thy
G2532 G2064 G1208 G3004 G2962 G3414 G4675

ἐποίησεν πέντε μνᾶς
hath gained five pound
G4160 G4002 G3414

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