

Luke 19:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

Analysis

Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds (ἀρατε ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τὴν μνᾶν καὶ δότε τῷ τὰ δέκα μνᾶς ἔχοντι, arate ap' autou tēn mnan kai dote tō ta deka mnas echonti)—the unfaithful servant loses even what he had, while the most productive servant receives more. This isn't arbitrary cruelty but kingdom economics: opportunities withdrawn from the faithless are entrusted to the faithful. The aorist imperatives (arate, take; dote, give) are decisive, immediate commands.

This previews Jesus's warning to Jerusalem: 'The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof' (Matthew 21:43). Israel's squandered opportunity passed to the Gentile church. Individually, believers who prove unfaithful in smaller tasks don't receive greater ones; those who faithfully multiply what they have receive more opportunities. This isn't about losing salvation (the mina isn't eternal life) but about kingdom stewardship and eternal rewards.

Historical Context

In Roman patronage systems, disloyal clients lost their positions to more faithful servants. The audience understood this redistribution as just: why waste opportunities on those who squander them when faithful servants could multiply them? This principle operated in salvation history: the Old Covenant priesthood (which failed) was replaced by Christ's eternal priesthood; temple worship gave

way to Spirit-filled church worship. God's purposes advance through faithful agents.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What ministry opportunities or spiritual gifts might God be withdrawing because of your unfaithfulness?
2. How does watching faithful servants receive more while unfaithful ones lose what they have affect your stewardship?
3. Where have you seen God redirect resources from fruitless ministries to fruitful ones?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	τοῖς	παρεστῶσιν	εἶπεν	Ἄρατε	ἀπ'	αὐτοῦ	τὴν
And	G3588	unto them that stood by	he said	Take	from	him	G3588
G2532		G3936	G2036	G142	G575	G846	
μνᾶς	καὶ	δότε	τῷ	τὰς	δέκα	μνᾶς	ἔχοντι
pounds	And	give	G3588	G3588	ten	pounds	it to him that hath
G3414	G2532	G1325			G1176	G3414	G2192
