

Luke 19:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

Analysis

For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him (λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι παντὶ τῷ ἔχοντι δοθήσεται, ἀπὸ δὲ τοῦ μὴ ἔχοντος καὶ ὃ ἔχει ἀρθήσεται, legō gar hymin hoti panti tō echonti dothēsetai, apo de tou mē echontos kai ho echei arthēsetai)—this principle appears three times in the Gospels (Matthew 13:12, 25:29, Mark 4:25), underscoring its importance. The future passives (dothēsetai, shall be given; arthēsetai, shall be taken away) indicate divine action: God orchestrates this redistribution.

This 'Matthew principle' operates across Scripture: those who use knowledge gain understanding; those who neglect it lose even basic comprehension. Those who exercise faith receive more faith; those who bury it lose assurance. Those who invest gifts develop skills; those who neglect them atrophy. Spiritually: those who respond to light receive more revelation; those who resist lose even the light they had (Romans 1:21-28). This isn't arbitrary but reflects how God's kingdom operates: use it or lose it. Stewardship demands engagement.

Historical Context

This principle would have resonated with Jesus's audience: farmers who worked their land prospered and expanded; those who neglected it lost everything. Merchants who traded goods multiplied wealth; those who hoarded stagnated.

Disciples who followed Jesus closely received deeper teaching; casual followers drifted away. The principle still operates: faithful churches grow in opportunity; unfaithful ones decline. Individual believers who walk in obedience receive more grace to obey; those who resist grieve the Spirit and harden.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Where have you experienced this principle: using gifts and opportunities multiplied them, while neglecting them diminished them?
2. How should this 'use it or lose it' dynamic motivate present faithfulness in seemingly small areas of stewardship?
3. What spiritual opportunities or insights might you be losing through neglect and unresponsiveness?

Interlinear Text

λέγω	γὰρ	ὕμῖν	ὅτι	παντὶ	τοῦ	ἔχει	δοθήσεται		
I say	For	unto you	That	unto every one	which	hath	shall be given		
G3004	G1063	G5213	G3754	G3956	G3588	G2192	G1325		
ἀπ'	δὲ	τοῦ	μὴ	ἔχει	καὶ	ὃ	ἔχει	ἀρθήσεται	ἀπ'
from	and	which	not	hath	even	that	hath	shall be taken away	from
G575	G1161	G3588	G3361	G2192	G2532	G3739	G2192	G142	G575
αὐτοῦ									
him									
G846									

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:12 (Parallel theme): For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

Luke 8:18 (Parallel theme): Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

2 John 1:8 (Parallel theme): Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

Matthew 21:43 (Parallel theme): Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Mark 4:25 (Parallel theme): For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.

Revelation 2:3 (Parallel theme): And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

1 Samuel 15:28 (Parallel theme): And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

1 Samuel 2:30 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

Revelation 3:11 (Parallel theme): Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Luke 16:3 (Parallel theme): Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.