

# Luke 22:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

## Analysis

---

**The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them** (κυριεύουσιν, kyrieuousin—to have dominion, rule as master). Jesus contrasts pagan power structures with kingdom values. **Benefactors** (εὐεργέται, euergetai) was an official title Hellenistic rulers adopted, claiming to serve the people while actually exploiting them for glory. Roman emperors and Eastern kings took this title to justify autocratic rule as paternalistic care.

Jesus exposes the fundamental corruption of worldly leadership: it seeks to be served rather than to serve. The Greek construction emphasizes oppressive domination (κατεξουσιάζω, katexousiazo—to exercise authority over, lord it over), where supposed "benefactors" actually enslaved populations while demanding praise. This is Satan's kingdom paradigm—power used for self-glorification.

## Historical Context

---

Hellenistic monarchs and Roman emperors commonly took titles like Soter (Savior) and Euergetes (Benefactor) while maintaining totalitarian control. The Ptolemies of Egypt and Seleucids of Syria used this propaganda extensively. Jesus's disciples, living under Roman occupation, knew firsthand the reality behind such hollow titles—taxation, military force, and execution for dissent.

## Related Passages

---

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

---

1. How do Christian leaders sometimes adopt worldly models of hierarchical power while using spiritual language to justify them?
2. In what ways can serving others become another form of self-promotion rather than genuine humility?
3. What current cultural or political leadership models contradict Jesus's teaching here?

## Interlinear Text

---

ὁ	δὲ	εἶπεν	αὐτῶν	Οἱ	βασιλεῖς	τῶν	ἐθνῶν
G3588	<b>And</b>	<b>he said</b>	<b>them</b>	G3588	<b>The kings</b>	G3588	<b>of the Gentiles</b>
	G1161	G2036	G846		G935		G1484
κυριεύουσιν	αὐτῶν	καὶ	οἱ	ἐξουσιάζοντες			
<b>exercise lordship over</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>and</b>	G3588	<b>they that exercise authority upon</b>			
G2961	G846	G2532		G1850			
αὐτῶν	εὐεργέται	καλοῦνται					
<b>them</b>	<b>benefactors</b>	<b>are called</b>					
G846	G2110	G2564					