

Luke 6:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.

Analysis

Give to every man that asketh of thee (παντὶ αἰτοῦντί σε δίδου, panti aitounti se didou)—the present imperative demands continuous action: keep giving to everyone who keeps asking. Panti (παντί) means every/all without discrimination. This challenges selective generosity. **And of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again** (μὴ ἀπαίτει, mē apaitei)—don't demand back what's taken. The verb apaiteō (ἀπαιτέω) means to ask back, demand return.

This teaching radicalizes stewardship—we hold possessions as trustees, not owners. Kingdom citizens give freely, knowing their true treasure is in heaven (Luke 12:33). This isn't naive enabling of exploitation but recognition that God owns everything; we're merely distributing his resources. Such generosity requires faith that God will provide for our needs as we meet others' needs.

Historical Context

Greco-Roman patronage systems operated on reciprocity—gifts created obligations for repayment or favors. Jesus overthrows this economy with kingdom generosity that gives without expecting return. First-century Galilee had great wealth disparity; beggars and poor were common. Jesus himself lived without permanent home or possessions (Luke 9:58). The early church took this teaching seriously, sharing possessions and caring for the poor (Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-35). This countercultural generosity demonstrated the gospel's transforming power.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' command to give to everyone who asks challenge your evaluation of 'deserving' versus 'undeserving' recipients?
2. What possessions are you holding tightly that Jesus is calling you to steward loosely, ready to give when asked?

Interlinear Text

παντὶ	δὲ	τῷ	αἰτοῦντί	σε	δίδου	καὶ	ἀπὸ	τοῦ
to every man	G1161	G3588	that asketh	of thee	Give	and	of	G3588
G3956			G154	G4571	G1325	G2532	G575	
αἴροντος	τὰ	σὰ	μὴ	ἀπαίτει				
him that taketh away	G3588	thy goods	them not	again				
G142		G4674	G3361	G523				

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 6:12 (Parallel theme): And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (Parallel theme): For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Acts 20:35 (Parallel theme): I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Psalms 41:1 (Parallel theme): Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

Proverbs 21:26 (Parallel theme): He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

Proverbs 19:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Luke 18:22 (Parallel theme): Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

Luke 6:38 (Good): Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.