

Luke 6:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

Analysis

If ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive what thank have ye for sinners also lend to sinners to receive as much again. Lend danisēte give loan. Hope to receive elpizete apolabein expect repayment. No special credit. Sinners do this self-interest lending. Expecting return. Christian lending should be generous without expecting return. Generosity exceeds enlightened self-interest. Grace-based economics. Reformed theology applies gospel to economics lending should reflect grace. Not exploitation but generosity. Not naive but gracious.

Historical Context

Ancient world usury was common charging interest sometimes exorbitant. Old Testament prohibited interest to fellow Israelites (Ex 22:25). Jesus calls for generous lending without expecting return. Not that loans must never be repaid but attitude is generous not calculating. Parable unforgiving servant (Matt 18:23-35) contrasts those forgiven much who forgive little. Believers forgiven infinite debt should forgive others. Medieval church sometimes prohibited interest legalism. Reformation allowed interest but warned against exploitation. Modern capitalism self-interest lending. Christian alternative gracious generous lending reflecting God grace.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How should Christian lending differ from secular self-interested lending?
2. What does lending without expecting return teach about grace-based economics?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐὰν δανείζουσιν παρ' ὧν ἐλπίζετε ἀπολάβωσιν
And if lend to them of whom ye hope again
G2532 G1437 G1155 G3844 G3739 G1679 G618

ποία ὑμῖν χάρις ἐστίν καὶ γὰρ οἱ ἁμαρτωλοῖς
what ye thank have And for sinners
G4169 G5213 G5485 G2076 G2532 G1063 G3588 G268

ἁμαρτωλοῖς δανείζουσιν ἵνα ἀπολάβωσιν τὰ ἴσα
sinnners lend to again as much
G268 G1155 G2443 G618 G3588 G2470

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 5:42 (Parallel theme): Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Luke 6:35 (Parallel theme): But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.