

Mark 4:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.

Analysis

Jesus states paradoxical principle: 'For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.' This seems unfair superficially but reveals spiritual reality: those with genuine faith (who 'have') receive increasing understanding and blessing; those without genuine faith (who 'have not') lose even apparent blessings. The phrase 'even that which he hath' indicates they possessed something—perhaps head knowledge, temporary enthusiasm, or outward profession—but lacking reality. This connects to soils parable: only good-soil hearers retain and multiply seed. Progressive revelation or progressive hardening—no neutrality exists.

Historical Context

This principle appears throughout Jesus' teaching (Matthew 13:12; 25:29; Luke 8:18; 19:26). It describes spiritual dynamics: responsive faith grows through exercise; neglected gifts atrophy. Jewish leaders possessed Scripture and tradition but rejected Christ, losing even what they had (Romans 11:7-10). Early church experienced this: faithful believers grew in grace; apostates lost even profession. Church history repeats pattern: revivals bring growth to receptive hearts; hardening deepens in resistant hearts. Nations that knew gospel but rejected it experience increasing spiritual darkness.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does exercising faith through obedience increase spiritual understanding and blessing?
2. What spiritual 'possessions' (knowledge, experiences, opportunities) might you lose through neglect?
3. How does this principle warn against presuming on spiritual privileges without genuine heart response?

Interlinear Text

ο	γὰρ	ἄν	ἔχει	δοθήσεται	αὐτῷ	καὶ	ο	οὐκ	ἔχει
he that	For	G302	hath	shall be given	him	and	he that	not	hath
G3739	G1063		G2192	G1325	G846	G2532	G3739	G3756	G2192
καὶ	ο	ἔχει	ἀρθήσεται	ἀπ'	αὐτῷ				
and	he that	hath	shall be taken	from	him				
G2532	G3739	G2192	G142	G575	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.

John 15:2 (Parallel theme): Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

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