

Matthew 25:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

Analysis

He that had received the five talents went and traded with the same—The verb ἔργαζομαι (έργαζομαι, worked/traded) implies active labor and risk-taking. The servant didn't wait for passive growth but immediately engaged in commerce. The doubling (epoiēsen alla pente, ἐποίησεν ἀλλα πέντε) demonstrates 100% return, extraordinary by any measure.

This immediate action (eutheos, εὐθέως, straightway in v.15) contrasts sharply with the fearful servant who buried his talent. Faithful stewardship combines urgency, diligence, and calculated risk. The kingdom advances through active deployment of gifts, not passive preservation.

Historical Context

Ancient Mediterranean trade offered high-risk, high-reward opportunities. Merchants invested in caravans traveling silk roads, shipping grain across the sea, or financing craftsmen's workshops. A 100% return was exceptional but possible for skilled traders willing to take risks—exactly what the master expected of his servants.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Are you actively 'trading' with your spiritual gifts, or merely preserving them unused?
2. What calculated risks might God be calling you to take for kingdom advancement?
3. Does the five-talent servant's immediate action convict you of delayed obedience in your own stewardship?

Interlinear Text

πορευθεὶς	δέ	ό	τὰ	πέντε	τάλαντα	λαβὼν
went	Then	G3588	G3588	five	talents	he that had received
G4198	G1161			G4002	G5007	G2983
εἰργάσατο	ἐν	αὐτοῖς	καὶ	ἐποίησεν	ἄλλα	πέντε
and traded	with	the same	and	made	them other	five
G2038	G1722	G846	G2532	G4160	G243	G4002
τάλαντα						
talents						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 23:18 (Parallel theme): And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the LORD: it shall not be treasured nor laid up; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing.

Acts 13:36 (Parallel theme): For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

2 Timothy 2:6 (Parallel theme): The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

