

Matthew 25:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth,
and hid his lord's money.

Analysis

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money—The strong adversative *de* (δέ, but) signals a sharp contrast. While the others traded immediately, this servant *ōryxen* (ὥρυξεν, dug) and *ekrypsen* (ἐκρυψεν, hid) the *argyrion* (ἀργύριον, silver/money).

Burying valuables was common theft-prevention, considered legally prudent—but it was also utterly risk-averse. This servant chose absolute safety over faithful stewardship. His action reveals a heart problem: he feared loss more than he loved his master's interests. Zero risk meant zero growth, making him unprofitable (v.30). Fear masquerading as prudence is still disobedience.

Historical Context

Jewish law (Mishnah, Baba Metzia 42a) held that burying money in the ground constituted reasonable care—if stolen, the guardian wasn't liable. However, this legal safety came at the cost of productivity. Professional bankers (*trapezitai*) offered interest-bearing deposits, making burial a choice of absolute security over profitable stewardship.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What spiritual gifts or opportunities have you 'buried' out of fear of failure or risk?
2. How does risk-aversion masquerade as wisdom in your Christian life?
3. Are you more concerned with preserving what you have or multiplying it for your Master's glory?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	τὸ	ἐν	λαβὼν	ἀπελθὼν	ὥρυξεν	ἐν	τῇ
G3588	But	G3588	one	he that had received	went	and digged	in	G3588
	G1161		G1520	G2983	G565	G3736	G1722	
γῇ	καὶ	ἀπέκρυψεν	τὸ	ἀργύριον	τοῦ	κυρίου	αὐτοῦ	
the earth	and	hid	G3588	money	G3588	lord's	G846	
G1093	G2532	G613		G694		G2962		
