

Matthew 25:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

Analysis

Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more—The servant's report emphasizes his master's initial entrustment (pente talanta moi paredōkas, πέντε τάλαντα μοι παρέδωκας) before claiming any credit. The word ekerdēsa (ἐκέρδησα, I gained) acknowledges effort but attributes opportunity to the master.

The phrase ep' autois (ἐπ' αὐτοῖς, beside/in addition to them) shows he returns the original five plus five more—transparency and honesty in accounting. He doesn't claim the original five as his own achievement. This models proper stewardship: recognize God's initial grace, work diligently, return all credit to Him.

Historical Context

Ancient accounting required servants to distinguish between principal and profit clearly. Mixing the two could suggest embezzlement. By separating 'thy five' from 'five more I gained,' the servant demonstrates both honesty and competence—he can account for every talent, proving his stewardship was above reproach.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Do you acknowledge God's prior grace when reporting your spiritual accomplishments, or claim credit for yourself?
2. How does this servant's transparency in accounting challenge any tendency toward spiritual pride?
3. Can you clearly distinguish between what God gave you and what you've done with it?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	προσελθὼν	ό	τὰ	πέντε	τάλαντα	λαβὼν
And so	came	G3588	G3588	five	talents	he that had received
G2532	G4334			G4002	G5007	G2983
προσήνεγκεν	ἄλλα	πέντε	τάλαντα	λέγων,	Κύριε	πέντε
and brought	more	five	talents	saying	Lord	five
G4374	G243	G4002	G5007	G3004	G2962	G4002
τάλαντα	μοι	παρέδωκας·	ἴδε	ἄλλα	πέντε	τάλαντα
talents	unto me	thou deliveredst	G1492	more	five	talents
G5007	G3427	G3860		G243	G4002	G5007
ἐκέρδησα	ἐπ'	αὐτοῖς				
I have gained	beside	them				
G2770	G1909	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:24 (References Lord): But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

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