

Matthew 25:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Analysis

Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents—Arate oun ap' autou to talanton kai dote tō echonti ta deka talanta (ἄρατε οὖν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τὸ τάλαντον καὶ δότε τῷ ἔχοντι τὰ δέκα τάλαντα). The unfaithful servant loses even what he had. The faithful servant with ten (five original + five gained) receives the forfeited talent.

This seems 'unfair' by human standards—why give more to someone who already has abundance? But kingdom economics reward faithfulness: those who prove trustworthy receive greater responsibility and resources. This isn't arbitrary favoritism but logical stewardship—you entrust assets to those proven capable. Opportunities multiply for the faithful; they atrophy for the slothful.

Historical Context

Roman estate management operated on proven performance. Slaves who demonstrated competence received greater responsibilities; those who failed were demoted or sold. The parable uses familiar economic logic to illustrate spiritual reality: faithfulness compounds; unfaithfulness leads to loss of opportunity.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Have you seen spiritual 'talents' atrophy from disuse while others' gifts multiply through exercise?
2. Does the master's redistribution offend your sense of fairness, or do you recognize the wisdom of entrusting resources to the faithful?
3. What opportunities might you lose if you don't steward your current gifts faithfully?

Interlinear Text

ἀρατε	οὖν	ἀπ'	αὐτοῦ	τὸ	τάλαντα·	καὶ	δότε	τῷ
Take	therefore	from	him	G3588	talents	and	give	G3588
G142	G3767	G575	G846		G5007	G2532	G1325	
 ἔχοντι τὰ δέκα τάλαντα·								
it unto him which hath	G3588	ten	talents					
G2192		G1176	G5007					

Additional Cross-References

Luke 19:24 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.