

Matthew 25:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Analysis

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance—

Tō gar echonti panti dothēsetai kai perisseuthēsetai (τῷ γὰρ ἔχοντι παντὶ δοθήσεται καὶ περισσευθήσεται): 'For to everyone having, it shall be given and he shall have abundance.' Perisseuthēsetai (περισσευθήσεται) means overflow/superabundance. This is the compound-interest principle of the kingdom: faithfulness in small things leads to greater capacity and opportunity.

But from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath—

The one 'having not' isn't destitute—he has one talent! But because he failed to use it, he loses even that. Unused gifts atrophy. Opportunity hoarded is opportunity lost. This principle applies across creation: muscles unused weaken, minds unstimulated dull, gifts unexercised disappear. God's economy rewards active stewardship.

Historical Context

Ancient agriculture understood this principle viscerally: land cultivated produced abundance; land left fallow became barren. Vines pruned flourished; vines neglected withered. Jesus's agrarian audience recognized that productivity requires active cultivation—passive preservation leads to decay. The same principle governs spiritual gifts and opportunities.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Where have you seen this principle at work—gifts exercised multiplying, gifts buried atrophying?
2. What spiritual 'muscles' have weakened from disuse in your life?
3. How does this verse motivate you to actively deploy your gifts before the opportunity is taken away?

Interlinear Text

τῷ	γὰρ	ἔχει	παντὶ	δοθήσεται	καὶ	περισσευθήσεται		
G3588	For	he hath	unto every one	shall be given	and	he shall have abundance		
	G1063	G2192	G3956	G1325	G2532	G4052		
ἀπ'	δὲ	τοῦ	μὴ	ἔχει	καὶ	ὃ	ἔχει	ἀρθήσεται
from	but	G3588	not	he hath	and	that which	he hath	shall be taken away
G575	G1161		G3361	G2192	G2532	G3739	G2192	G142
ἀπ'	αὐτοῦ							
from	him							
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.

Mark 4:25 (Parallel theme): For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which 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.

Luke 10:42 (Parallel theme): But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Revelation 2:5 (Parallel theme): Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Matthew 21:41 (Parallel theme): They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

John 11:48 (Parallel theme): If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

Lamentations 2:6 (Parallel theme): And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.

Hosea 2:9 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness.