

Matthew 5:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

Analysis

Complete payment of every debt before release reinforces the seriousness of unresolved sin. The 'uttermost farthing' (smallest coin) shows God's justice is thorough and complete. This parable warns about the impossibility of self-salvation—we cannot pay the debt of sin ourselves.

Historical Context

A farthing (Greek kodrantes, Latin quadrans) was the smallest Roman copper coin, worth about 1/64 of a denarius. The phrase emphasizes complete payment with nothing left unpaid. Debtor's prison was common in the Roman world.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does your inability to pay sin's debt point you to Christ's sufficient payment?
2. What does this teach about the finality and completeness of divine justice?

Interlinear Text

ἀμὴν	λέγω	σοι,	οὐ	μὴ	ἐξέλθης	ἐκεῖθεν	ἕως	ἂν
Verily	I say	unto thee	G3756	G3361	Thou shalt	out thence	till	G302
G281	G3004	G4671			G1831	G1564	G2193	
ἀποδῶς	τὸν	ἔσχατον	κοδράντην					
thou hast paid	G3588	the uttermost	farthing					
G591		G2078	G2835					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 18:34 (Parallel theme): And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

Luke 12:59 (Parallel theme): I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite.