

Matthew 5:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Analysis

Generous giving to borrowers opposes natural self-protection and hoarding. It trusts God's provision rather than personal accumulation. This doesn't mandate foolish enabling of destructive behavior, but challenges the grip of materialism and commands open-handed living.

Historical Context

Deuteronomy 15:7-8 commanded lending to poor brothers freely. Jesus radicalizes this to include even enemies. The early church practiced radical sharing, selling possessions to help needy members (Acts 2:45, 4:32-37), creating a powerful witness to Kingdom values.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How tightly do you grip your possessions versus holding them loosely as God's steward?

2. What would it look like to develop a reputation for generosity in your community?

Interlinear Text

τῷ G3588	αἰτοῦντί to him that asketh G154	σε thee G4571	δίδου· Give G1325	καὶ and G2532	τὸν G3588	θέλοντα from him that would G2309	ἀπὸ of G575
σοῦ thee G4675	δανείσασθαι borrow G1155	μὴ not G3361	ἀποστραφῆς thou away G654				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 19:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Hebrews 13:16 (Parallel theme): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Psalms 37:21 (Parallel theme): The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

Romans 12:20 (Parallel theme): Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 (Parallel theme): In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.

Daniel 4:27 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.