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## To whom much is given much will be expected

A few days ago, I noted noble but un reserved sentiments in President Bush's State of the Union address (Our work in the world is based on timeless truths: who is given more, much is needed) I, along with Barbara Palpy and Jeff Plumm, discussed luke 12:48's previous, equally false reproduction again as one of two simple values cited by the Gates Foundation. Jan Freeman introduced me in an email to her comments about the 1997 version of JFK Jr. (Who's given so much, a lot to expect, right? Many versions of this quote interested me about the history of society and language. From the summer of 1997, we will go backwards. John F. Kennedy Jr., publisher of George magazine at the time, said: Two members of my family went after the ideal alternative to their lives. One [Congressman Joe Kennedy] left behind a distressed wife, and the other [Michael Kennedy] fell in love with a young man and abandoned his judgment in the process in what appeared to be a hedge against mortality. Both became poster boys for bad behavior. Perhaps they deserve it. Perhaps they should have known better. You can expect a lot from who will be given more, right? [The emphasis added here and the whole] family criticism caused a stir. Nadine Brozan (Chronicle, NYT 8/12/1997) picked up some juicy backsliding, including a nice variation of the Ask Not, thope: John F. Kennedy JR broke with the Kennedy family's tradition of solidarity by openly criticizing two of his cousins. Yesterday, Rep. Kennedy fired back. I think my first reaction was, 'Ask what you can do for his magazine, not what you can do for your cousin,' Rep. Kennedy said in Chelsea, Massachusetts, according to the Associated Press. And MoDo disguised John John, in an all-too-imitated way, to pieces (Maureen Dowd, Letters from Hank, NYT 8/13/1997). But as far as I know, only Jan Freeman pointed out that his envoi was not grammatical (Hank skips writing assignment, Boston Globe, August 17, 1997). ... A couple of certain blunders come out of the haze with terrifying clarity. First, there's the kiel-like mangling of familiar quotes: You'd expect a lot from who's given it, and JFK Jr. aims higher than Kiir, and John John misunderstands Jesus. But you don't have to know the New Testament or be a pedant because you realize something is wrong here. Much is expected from him, to those who are given much, is the least this sentence needs to stand alone. (The Bible, of course, does better things: for those who are given much for anyone, hisLuke 12:48, which says Necessary, is the King James version. William Sapphire was one of the missing, instead of (8/17/1997) taking responsibility for the first [grammatical] mistake by an extrater earthly earth man, and instead of AD 1969 on the apollo 11 plaque 1969, and told (September 3, 1997) that the word paparazzi was formed by Singh Neglected Paparazzi, a sidewalk photographer in Federico Fellini's 1960 La Dolce Vita. What Bill may have pointed out, as Yang did, is that the expression of this emotion in English requires two pairs of verbs and prepositions. But you've decided to connect everything, but somewhere, you have to tell us that when a lot is given to them, a lot is expected from people. Well, you can instead tell us that much is expected of them, that more is needed from them, and that much of it is given to them. But I don't want to leave out the prepositions that expect or demand with the people that things are expected or needed and teach that a lot of people are needed when a lot is given to them (as President Bush actually did). Or (as the Gates Foundation virtually does) many people expect when much is given to them. Or a lot of people are expected when a lot is given to them (as JFK Jr. has virtually done). None of the (ghost) writers of the tinged adage would have been momentarily deceived by a simple version of them. So why did they compose and accept the equally flawed (if more biblically resonant) version they used? But one possibility is that they didn't make up the broken version at all, but just accepted them from another source. And possible sources are suggested by a 1994 news story in which an equally broken version of Luke was attributed to Ethel Kennedy via Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (Bob Morris, Night.). When the Stars Come Out, NYT, May 29, 1994): Even Robert F. Kennedy Jr., winner of the Coolwater Environmental Merit Award, called St. Paul's recommendation, as taught by his mother Ethel Kennedy, who was at his table. A lot is expected of those who are given a lot, he said in support of actors entering polliicians, nonetheless Ronald Reagan. And in Ronald Skcler's (2005) story about Christopher Kennedy Lawford, the responsibility for which the quote was assigned to Rose Kennedy (of a different and crassed version) once said, A lot is expected of a given. Cherchez La Mama, or President John F. Kennedy, used a consistent quote in a 1961 speech: Of those who are given much, many are needed. Then again, he had Pierre Salinger to check out his speech. [By the way, on July 20, 1999, the occasional death of JFK Jr., Tom Dashle attributed president Kennedy yet another different mangling of this quote (according to congressional records): I know that John F. Kennedy Jr. deeply believed in public service. He believed what his father said: For those who are given a lot, a lot is needed. This amounts to saying that much is needed for those who are given a lot, and I doubt senator Daschle would have approved. So it's clear that this quote is actively circulating through at least three generations of the Kennedy family, perhaps in a coherent disepire form. We can see if Ethel and Rose actually used the confusing version or were betrayed by their descendants, recent politicians and flawed memories of the fourth estate. But even if Rose Kennedy and Ethel Kennedy indulate disenfrepire versions of this quote, I have no evidence of either, but they certainly weren't (only) founders. In 1886, the version used by President Bush was a non-Kennedy (Crystal Nicks, Shuttle Inquiry: National Mourning Continues; New York honors Challenger's 7, 2/3/1986: Dr. Hugh Walcott of the Navy, who has known Commander Smith for 23 years, said: Big challenges require great risk. Great progress almost has to come from setbacks. Mike knew this and lived quietly every day. He knew that much was needed, to those who were given much. And similarly in 1984 (Joyce Parkick, Alvarado violated ethics rules, accusations of the City Investigation Department, March 23, 1984): The commissioner also called the Bible in remarks he made before being questioned. As the Bible tells us, 'Who is given so much?' is expected of everyone. The chancellor of the New York City School Board, like others in high public office, is the one who is given a lot, he said in a crowded room at 130 John Street. As always, I don't know if this is what Walcott and the commissioner actually said or if the reporters mis-cited them, but in any case, this Maxim variation is starting to look like it's voluntarily having a spring here and there. Take a look at the database of the ProQuest American Periodicals series to see how this has been happening for almost 200 years. APS has 315 hits for Who's Given a Lot. I've had to work back since 1915 to look at these four to find a botched version (Reverend William Burns-Lowery, Suburban Church Problem, The New York Observer and Chronicle, March 2, 1911): wealthy, naturally, life-easier and religion easier. They follow the line of least resistance on religious issues. Told me a banker, but not long ago, when I asked about his absence from the church: I have nothing against the church. My only excuse is that I'm followingThe line with the least resistance. Wealthy Christians often forget the master's repeated words: Much is needed, to those who are given much. The Rev. Lowery has tirelessly repeated this version, for example in Bible Study for Schools and Homes, The New York Observer and Chronicle, August 11, 1910: Greatness is measured by service. Florence Nightingale moved other women the most when she herself went to minister on the battlefield. For those who have been given a lot, much is needed. Larger men are in intelligence and culture, and it is increasingly essential to be a helper. And The Sins of Nadav and Aviv, The New York Observer and Chronicle, August 1, 1907: The higher the position you occupy the more miserable, the more sin, and the broader it becomes the mischief caused by it. [...] For those who have been given a lot, much is needed. Several other dissoaged variants have also been found in previous articles by other authors. And, A lot will be needed for those who are given a lot. The last article can be found in the JC Brigham article Mr. Brigham's Report respecting the Spanish-American religious state, Missionary Herald, November 1826. And the LION database is george Henry Boker's life lesson, 1848:517 But those who suffer from you who love golden cages and 518 people match the base to the current time, 519 who do not build on its solid foundation, the truth! [...] 526 A man with the unsaught power of a strong poem, 527, makes their weak brothers stray far, 528 or admire their blind mistakes. Each knows, 529 in his mind, himself a hypocrite. 530 See the sad tears that the devastated muse shed the cancellation of 531. O'er. Hear the powerful voice 532 Thunder in his hollow soul--- you traitor!533 To those who have been given more, you need a lot. 534 How to draw a trembling mind back in fear 535 When contemplating the fate of bringing geniuses to the times! Some relatively recent ones from the APS: Henry Sloan Coffin, Modern Life as Live Preachers See It, New York Observer and Chronicle, May 26, 1910:. God's Christ-like purpose does not omit anyone, but it is a way to reach others using one individual and to achieve the plan of God's world using one nation. He acknowledges Abraham in his friendship that he can make him the first blessing of the country of many friends, he gives Israel with a special religious instinct that it may be his father's people spreading faith, Greece with an undergraduate degree of Greek aesthetics may be his beauty minister with a philosophical spirit that it might lead the world to bigger ideas. America in the 19th century has more complete freedom that it might be a haven for the oppressed and give a rich life to millions of people from Europe. God's gift is never intended to be monopolized by the recipient or to be considered a recipient.to enjoy selfishly. There is a lot to be had for those who have been given so much to him. Thanksgiving, 1914, Youth Companion, November 26, 1914. We are grateful that this year we have suffered the luckiest people in the world and the most endangered. And that position means a very serious responsibility. To those who have been given more, much is needed from them. Miss Lillian Johnson, The Broken Things of Life, Emblem of Gospel Freedom, April 29, 1915: Our nature is different. Their moral care almost weaves a tenor of goodness. That fair Elysian field will not be stained with fight blood. Its quiet peace is hardly broken by the noise of tumult or rebellion. Such a good nature of the nature has more energy for positive virtues - for him much is given for him, much of him is much needed. I read 25 of the 315 examples, about half from the end of the period covered by the archive and half from the beginning. There were five dissoaged versions: who will be given more, much will be needed. (3) It will be necessary to give more to who. You're going to need a lot of who's going to be given more. The 20 versions were consistent, at least in the sense that each verb has the prepositions it needs: who is given more, many of him will be accurate. to those who have been given a lot, will need a lot of him. To those who have been given much, a lot of him is needed. To those who have been given a lot, many of him certainly need a lot. To those who have been given much, much of him is needed. (4) Many of them are needed by those who are given more. You will need a lot of them, who will be given more. to those who have been given much, will need more from him. To those who have been given more, much is needed from them. Much must be needed from him who is given more. You're going to need a lot of them, who's given more. Many are given from him, many are due. Many are given from him, many are expected. Many of him who have been given will need a lot. Many of them are given a lot of people, many are needed. Among those who have been given many of them, many will need. To those who were given much, many of him, many of him are much needed. Exercise for the reader: Build a simple automaton to generate the rest of the set implied by this sample (ignoring interpolation validation, etc.). What is the size of the set of implicit variants? If you want to widen the net a bit more, the search for many given people returns 46 hits, equally varied and often equally intertwined (although in the same example). For example, many are needed from a given person. The Presbyterians are god's means of numbers, social status, intelligence, means, money, and so much more. A lot like that is necessary. Much will still be demanded from those given much. Mrs. Gurley is one of the many who havegiven and received more from anyone. ... To those who have been given much, he will also need a lot, to those who have been given more, many are justifiably expected from him. Some of this variation comes from variations of Bible translation, many of which seem to come from creative memories or deliberate excuses. This sentiment has played an important role in the development of a sense of social conscience among the American elite over the past 200 years. For comparison, here are some of the versions of Luke 12:48 from various Bible translations: many are requested from everyone given many, many are requested from everyone given many, many are sought after by those given. He has to demand a lot from a given person, but a lot is needed for a man given much by him, a lot is needed for a man given a lot of him, a lot is needed for a man given much by him, a lot is needed when someone is given a lot, and many will be needed, many will be needed. With you, he expects you to serve him well, any way you say it, it's true. . . well, at least it should be. Posted by Mark Liberman on January 26, 2007 at 8:24 AM