

Pathwork on
Jesus' Teachings on Vicious and Benign Circles

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 78 *Question and Answers* illuminates the apparent paradox of one of Jesus' teachings.

21	QUESTION: Another saying of Jesus has been misunderstood, I believe. It has been distorted as meaning injustice. The words in Mark 4:25 read: "For he that hath, to him shall be given; and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath." This seems to refer to the principle of the vicious circle.
22	ANSWER: Exactly. You see, my friends, I believe it almost impossible for anyone to truly understand Scripture, unless one does this kind of work on the path. With this work of self-finding, the sayings will have a very clear meaning for you. You now know quite well that wherever a deviation, misconception or conflict exists in you, vicious circles result. They snowball. They become bigger and bigger so that you continually worsen the situation. That which you originally wanted to run away from gets much worse. Out of this evasion, you create conflicts and wrong attitudes which result in bringing more misery than you would have without such evasion and cowardice. The bargain you wanted to make by assuming a defensive, wrong inner attitude has much stronger repercussions than you realized. That is exactly what Jesus meant.
23	On the other hand, when you are in health, in harmony, whether in minimum or in optimum state, no hardship would have to come to you and I venture to say that anyone who has progressed somewhat in this work has personally experienced this to be true, at least to some degree. Only then will the spiritual teachings of all times be understood in their true meaning. Only then will you see that God does not sit on a throne above you, arbitrarily handing out reward and punishment, fortune and misfortune. But in your health, in accord with reality on all levels of your being, you produce more and more happiness. In your fullness, you progressively attract more positive experience. In your soul-sickness and error, productive of fear, pride, arrogance, ignorance, darkness, confusion, you are not only unhappy, but, with these trends causing unhappiness, you compound the unhappiness. Thus, from the poor will be taken away. The poor meaning the sick, the ignorant, the ones in error and darkness. The rich meaning the ones who understand. ...