

Acts 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

Analysis

The council's admission - 'a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it' - acknowledges undeniable reality while refusing proper response. The Greek 'gnōston sēmeion' (notable miracle) indicates a widely-known, authenticating sign. Their confession 'we cannot deny it' admits truth while planning to suppress it, demonstrating the futility of opposing manifest divine activity.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's compact size (about 600 acres within walls) meant news spread rapidly. The healed man had begged at the temple's prominent gate (Acts 3:2) where thousands passed daily. Denying the miracle would destroy the council's credibility, forcing them to acknowledge what condemned their Christ-rejection.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do people acknowledge God's work while refusing to submit to His authority?
2. What does 'we cannot deny it' teach about truth's ultimate triumph despite powerful opposition?

Interlinear Text

λέγοντες	Τί	ποιήσομεν	τοῖς	ἀνθρώποις	τούτοις	ὅτι
Saying	What	shall we do	G3588	men	to these	that
G3004	G5101	G4160		G444	G5125	G3754
μὲν	γὰρ	γνωστὸν	σημεῖον	γέγονεν	δι'	αὐτῶν
indeed	for	a notable	miracle	hath been done	by	them
G3303	G1063	G1110	G4592	G1096	G1223	G846
πᾶσιν	τοῖς	κατοικοῦσιν	Ἱερουσαλὴμ	φανερὸν	καὶ	
to all them	G3588	that dwell	in Jerusalem	is manifest	and	
G3956		G2730	G2419	G5318	G2532	
οὐ	δυνάμεθα	ἀρνήσασθαι·				
we cannot	G1410	deny				
G3756		G720				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 6:10 (Parallel theme): And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

John 12:18 (Parallel theme): For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

Luke 21:15 (Parallel theme): For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.