

John 1:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

Analysis

The identification of the questioners as Pharisees is significant—they represent the religious establishment most concerned with correct doctrine and practice. Their presence elevates the seriousness of the interrogation. John's Gospel consistently shows Pharisees struggling with Christ's identity, illustrating how religious knowledge without spiritual regeneration leads to unbelief.

Historical Context

The Pharisees were the dominant Jewish sect, emphasizing oral Torah and strict observance. Their 240-mile round trip from Jerusalem to Bethabara demonstrates the importance they placed on investigating John's ministry.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can religious training and theological knowledge become obstacles rather than aids to recognizing God's work?
2. What distinguishes sincere theological inquiry from hostile interrogation?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	τῶν	ἀπεσταλμένοι	ἦσαν	ἐκ	τῶν	Φαρισαίων
And	they which	were sent	were	of	they which	the Pharisees
G2532	G3588	G649	G2258	G1537	G3588	G5330

Additional Cross-References

Luke 16:14 (Resurrection): And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

Acts 26:5 (Resurrection): Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

Acts 23:8 (Resurrection): For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

Matthew 23:26 (Resurrection): Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Luke 7:30 (Resurrection): But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

Luke 11:53 (Resurrection): And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: