

John 10:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

Analysis

And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch—The location is significant. Solomon's Porch (ἡ στοὰ τοῦ Σολομῶνος/hē stoa tou Solomōnos) was a covered colonnade on the temple's eastern side, overlooking the Kidron Valley. This structure, possibly dating to Solomon's original temple, survived the Babylonian destruction and was incorporated into Herod's temple. It was a common gathering place for teaching and discussion.

The verb "walked" (περιεπάτει/periepatei) is imperfect tense, suggesting continuous action—Jesus was walking back and forth, perhaps teaching as He moved, a common rabbinic practice. The setting implies accessibility; Jesus wasn't hiding but publicly available during a major festival when Jerusalem was crowded with pilgrims.

The irony of location shouldn't be missed: Jesus walks in the porch named for Solomon, Israel's wisest king and temple-builder, yet greater than Solomon is here (Matthew 12:42). Solomon built a house for God's name; Jesus IS God's name incarnate. Solomon's wisdom was legendary; Jesus is the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24). The temple that bore Solomon's legacy housed the true Temple—God dwelling among His people.

Historical Context

Solomon's Porch was also where the early church gathered after Pentecost (Acts 3:11, 5:12). The colonnade provided shelter from weather while remaining within

the temple complex. Teachers would walk while disciples followed—peripatetic teaching, later practiced by Greek philosophers like Aristotle (whose school was called the Peripatetics).

The temple setting during Hanukkah drew maximum attention. Pilgrims from across the diaspora filled Jerusalem to celebrate the temple's rededication. This provided Jesus opportunity to teach large crowds and confront the religious establishment on their own ground. The public nature of His teaching (John 18:20) meant witnesses could verify His claims and words.

The eastern side of the temple faced the Mount of Olives, where Jewish tradition expected Messiah to appear. Ezekiel 43:1-5 prophesied God's glory returning to the temple from the east. Jesus teaching in Solomon's Porch on the eastern side carries messianic implications: the glory of the Lord has returned to His temple.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's public teaching in the temple during major festivals reveal about His mission strategy?
2. How does Jesus fulfill what Solomon's temple and wisdom only foreshadowed?
3. Why is it significant that the early church gathered in the same location where Jesus taught?

Interlinear Text

καὶ περιεπάτει ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ ἐν τῇ
And walked G3588 Jesus in G3588 the temple in G3588
G2532 G4043 G2424 G1722 G2411 G1722

στοῷ τοῦ Σολομῶντος
porch G3588 Solomon's
G4745 G4672

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:12 (Parallel theme): And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

Acts 3:11 (Parallel theme): And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.