

John 10:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

Analysis

The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy (ἀπεκρίθησαν αὐτῷ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι· Περὶ καλοῦ ἔργου οὐ λιθάζομέν σε ἀλλὰ περὶ βλασφημίας, apekrithesan auto hoi Ioudaioi· Peri kalou ergou ou lithazomen se alla peri blasphemias)—They explicitly state the charge: βλασφημία (blasphemia, 'blasphemy'), speaking against God. **And because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God** (καὶ ὅτι σὺ ἄνθρωπος ὃν ποιεῖς σεαυτὸν θεόν, kai hoti sy anthropos on poieis seauton theon)—they correctly identify Jesus's claim: though ἄνθρωπος (anthropos, 'a man, human'), He makes Himself θεόν (theon, 'God').

This verse demonstrates that first-century Jews understood exactly what Jesus claimed—full deity, not mere Messiahship or prophetic status. Modern attempts to reinterpret Jesus as merely a good teacher or prophet ignore that His contemporaries faced His unambiguous deity claims and chose sides. Either they were right (He blasphemed) or He truly is God incarnate—no other option exists.

Historical Context

The charge of blasphemy carried the death penalty under Mosaic Law (Leviticus 24:16). Jewish leaders lacked authority to execute under Roman rule, which is why they later brought Him to Pilate with political charges (Luke 23:2). But their true

grievance was always theological: Jesus's deity claim threatened their religious system and authority.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the Jewish leaders' clear understanding of Jesus's deity claim challenge modern attempts to portray Him as merely a moral teacher?
2. Why is Jesus's claim to be both fully human and fully God the central issue of Christianity—not peripheral doctrine?
3. What does it mean that Jesus's blasphemy was either true (making Him God) or false (making Him a deceiver worthy of death)—no middle ground exists?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθησαν αὐτῷ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι λέγοντες, περὶ καλοῦ

answered **him** **G3588** **The Jews** **saying** **For** **a good**
G611 G846 G2453 G3004 G4012 G2570

ἔργου οὐ λιθάζομέν σε ἀλλὰ περὶ βλασφημίας καὶ

work **not** **we stone** **thee** **but** **For** **blasphemy** **and**
G2041 G3756 G3034 G4571 G235 G4012 G988 G2532

ὅτι σὺ ἄνθρωπος ὃν ποιεῖς σεαυτὸν θεόν

because **that thou** **a man** **being** **makest** **thyself** **God**
G3754 G4771 G444 G5607 G4160 G4572 G2316

Additional Cross-References

John 5:18 (References God): Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

Leviticus 24:16 (Parallel theme): And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.

John 10:30 (Parallel theme): I and my Father are one.

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