

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 ὢν 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

Psalms 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	ὢν	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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