

John 10:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And many believed on him there.

Analysis

And many believed on him there (καὶ πολλοὶ ἐπίστευσαν εἰς αὐτὸν ἐκεῖ, kai polloi episteusan eis auton ekei)—The phrase πολλοὶ ἐπίστευσαν (polloi episteusan, 'many believed') indicates saving faith: ἐπίστευσαν εἰς αὐτόν (episteusan eis auton, 'believed into Him') uses the preposition εἰς (eis, 'into'), signifying commitment to Christ's person, not mere intellectual assent. The location marker ἐκεῖ (ekei, 'there') contrasts this receptive region with Jerusalem's rejection.

This verse demonstrates the sovereignty of evangelism: where John faithfully witnessed and Jesus performed authenticating works, many believed. The contrast is stark—Jerusalem's religious leaders, seeing the same evidence, sought to kill Him; simple people in Perea, remembering John's testimony and witnessing Jesus's works, believed. Faith isn't about access to evidence but willingness to submit to truth.

Historical Context

This mass belief in Perea (Transjordan) contrasts with John 12:37—in Jerusalem, 'though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him.' Geography and social status don't determine faith, but heart receptivity does. These Perean believers formed part of the growing movement that would become the church.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why did many in Perea believe while Jerusalem's religious elite rejected—what made the difference?
2. How does the combination of faithful witness (John) and authenticating works (Jesus) create optimal conditions for faith?
3. What does this verse teach about evangelism—that success isn't technique but faithfulness, with God granting the results?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐπίστευσαν	πολλοὶ	ἐκεῖ	εἰς	αὐτὸν
And	believed	many	there	on	him
G2532	G4100	G4183	G1563	G1519	G846

Additional Cross-References

John 4:41 (Faith): And many more believed because of his own word;

John 4:39 (Faith): And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

John 7:31 (Faith): And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

John 2:23 (Faith): Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

John 8:30 (Faith): As he spake these words, many believed on him.

John 12:42 (Faith): Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

John 11:45 (Faith): Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org