

John 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

Analysis

John notes the audience didn't understand Jesus' parable. Spiritual truth requires spiritual capacity to comprehend. The religious leaders heard the words but missed the meaning, illustrating that natural man cannot receive spiritual things (1 Cor 2:14). Understanding requires the Spirit's illumination, not merely human intelligence.

Historical Context

Jesus often spoke in parables that revealed truth to true disciples while concealing it from hardened hearts. This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that they would hear but not understand (Isa 6:9).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What causes some to hear Jesus' words yet miss their meaning?
2. How does the Spirit illuminate Scripture's meaning for you?
3. When have you moved from confusion to understanding about spiritual truth?

Interlinear Text

Ταύτην	τὴν	παροιμίαν	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ἐκεῖνοι
G3778	G3588	parable G3942	spake G2036	unto them G846	G3588	Jesus G2424	they G1565
δὲ	οὐκ	ἔγνωσαν	τίνα	ἦν	ἃ	ἐλάλει	αὐτοῖς
but G1161	not G3756	understood G1097	what things G5101	they were G2258	which G3739	he spake G2980	unto them G846

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 56:11 (Parallel theme): Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

Psalms 82:5 (Parallel theme): They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

Proverbs 28:5 (Parallel theme): Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.