

John 11:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

Analysis

The chief priests and Pharisees convene the Sanhedrin, acknowledging Jesus performs 'many miracles' (literally 'signs'). Their question 'What do we?' reveals political calculation, not spiritual inquiry. They don't dispute the miracles' reality but debate the response. This demonstrates hardened hearts—even undeniable evidence doesn't penetrate willful unbelief. Their concern is pragmatic (maintaining power) not theological (seeking truth). This validates Jesus' teaching about those who wouldn't believe even if one rose from the dead (Luke 16:31).

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin was Judaism's supreme council of 71 members including chief priests, elders, and scribes. They held religious and limited civil authority under Roman oversight.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does the leaders' undisputed acceptance of miracles yet rejection of Christ teach about unbelief's nature?
2. How does political calculation corrupt spiritual discernment?
3. In what ways do we allow pragmatic concerns to override spiritual truth?

Interlinear Text

συνήγαγον οὖν οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι
gathered Then G3588 the chief priests and G3588 the Pharisees
G4863 G3767 G749 G2532 G5330

συνέδριον καὶ ἔλεγον Τί ποιεῖ ὅτι οὗτος ὁ
a council and said What do we for this G3588
G4892 G2532 G3004 G5101 G4160 G3754 G3778

ἄνθρωπος πολλὰ σημεῖα ποιεῖ
man many miracles do we
G444 G4183 G4592 G4160

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:3 (Parallel theme): Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

Matthew 5:22 (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

John 12:19 (Resurrection): The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

John 2:11 (Parallel theme): This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

John 11:57 (Resurrection): Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

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