

John 11:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

Analysis

Jesus responds with a metaphorical teaching about walking in daylight, alluding to His earlier discourse (9:4-5). The twelve hours represent the appointed time for work; stumbling comes from walking outside God's timing. Christ walks in His Father's will (the light) and therefore does not stumble, despite danger. This teaches divine sovereignty over life's duration and safety in obedience. Those who walk in God's will, whatever the apparent danger, walk in light.

Historical Context

A twelve-hour day from sunrise to sunset was standard Roman timekeeping. Travelers avoided night journeys due to danger from stumbling and robbers.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does walking in God's will provide safety beyond physical security?
2. What does this teach about divine sovereignty over the timing of our lives?

3. Are you making decisions based on apparent danger or God's clear calling?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς Οὐχὶ δώδεκα εἰσιν ὥραι τῆς
answered G3588 Jesus not twelve Are there hours G3588
G611 G2424 G3780 G1427 G1526 G5610

ἡμέρα ἐάν τις περιπατῇ ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ οὐ
in the day If any man walk in the day not
G2250 G1437 G5100 G4043 G1722 G2250 G3756

προσκόπτει ὅτι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου τούτου βλέπει·
he stumbleth because G3588 the light G3588 world of this he seeth
G4350 G3754 G5457 G2889 G5127 G991

Additional Cross-References

John 9:4 (Parallel theme): I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

John 12:35 (Light): Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

Jeremiah 31:9 (Parallel theme): They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.