

John 12:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

Analysis

The disciples didn't understand these events initially but comprehended after Jesus' glorification (resurrection and ascension). The Holy Spirit's post-Pentecost illumination enabled them to connect Jesus' actions with Scripture. This demonstrates the principle that understanding follows event; interpretation requires Spirit-given insight. Their later remembrance that 'these things were written of him' shows how the Spirit illuminates Scripture's Christ-centered nature. This validates the necessity of regeneration and Spirit-baptism for properly understanding God's word.

Historical Context

John writes retrospectively, acknowledging the disciples' initial incomprehension. This honesty validates the account's authenticity—fabricated stories wouldn't include disciples' ignorance.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the disciples' delayed understanding teach about spiritual illumination's necessity?
2. How does the Spirit's ministry help us recognize Christ in Scripture?
3. In what ways has your understanding of Jesus' actions deepened over time?

Interlinear Text

ταῦτα	δὲ	οὐκ	ἔγνωσαν	οἱ	μαθηταὶ	αὐτῷ	τὸ
These things	G1161	not	understood	G3588	disciples	him	G3588
G5023		G3756	G1097		G3101	G846	
πρῶτον	ἀλλ᾽	ὅτε	ἐδοξάσθη	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	τότε	
G4413	but	when	was glorified	G3588	Jesus	then	
G235	G235	G3753	G1392		G2424	G5119	
ἐμνήσθησαν	ὅτι	ταῦτα	ἥν	ἐπ'	αὐτῷ	γεγραμμένα	καὶ
remembered they	that	These things	were	of	him	written	and
G3415	G3754	G5023	G2258	G1909	G846	G1125	G2532
ταῦτα	ἐποίησαν	αὐτῷ					
These things	that they had done	him					
G5023	G4160	G846					

Additional Cross-References

John 2:22 (References Jesus): When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

John 14:26 (Parallel theme): But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 7:39 (Glory): (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 12:23 (Glory): And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

Acts 2:36 (References Jesus): Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Luke 24:45 (Parallel theme): Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Hebrews 8:1 (Parallel theme): Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Hebrews 12:2 (References Jesus): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Acts 2:33 (Parallel theme): Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Acts 3:13 (Glory): The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.