

John 12:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

Analysis

The eyewitnesses to Lazarus' resurrection continue testifying, their ongoing witness creating evangelistic momentum. The Greek verb 'testified' (emarturoun) indicates continuous action—they kept bearing witness. Their testimony validates the miracle's reality and demonstrates transformed lives as evidence. This exemplifies how authentic Christian testimony is eyewitness account, not hearsay. Their witness drew crowds to Jesus, showing evangelism's power when believers share what they've seen God do. Personal testimony remains compelling evidence.

Historical Context

First-century evangelism relied heavily on eyewitness testimony. The apostles consistently emphasized they testified to what they saw (1 John 1:1-3; Acts 4:20).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does eyewitness testimony provide Christianity's evidential foundation?

2. What do the witnesses' ongoing testimony teach about evangelism's nature?
3. What has God done in your life that you can testify to having witnessed?

Interlinear Text

ἐμαρτύρει	οὖν	ὁ	ὄχλος	ὁ	ὢν	μετ'	αὐτὸν
bare record	therefore	G3588	The people	G3588	that was	with	him
G3140	G3767		G3793		G5607	G3326	G846
ὅτε	τὸν	Λάζαρον	ἐφώνησεν	ἐκ	τοῦ	μνημείου	καὶ
when	G3588	Lazarus	he called	from	G3588	his grave	and
G3753		G2976	G5455	G1537		G3419	G2532
ἤγειρεν	αὐτὸν	ἐκ	νεκρῶν				
raised	him	from	the dead				
G1453	G846	G1537	G3498				

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 1:2 (Parallel theme): Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

John 12:9 (Resurrection): Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.