

John 12:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

Analysis

The crowds met Jesus because they heard of the Lazarus miracle. The Greek construction emphasizes causality—the miracle caused the crowd's response. This demonstrates signs' evangelistic purpose: authenticating Jesus' divine mission and drawing people to Him. However, miracle-motivated crowds prove fickle (6:26)—they seek spectacle, not salvation. The miracle's fame spreads but doesn't guarantee genuine conversion. This warns against equating popularity with authentic spiritual movement. True disciples follow for who Jesus is, not merely what He does.

Historical Context

News of Lazarus' resurrection weeks earlier had time to spread throughout Judea and among arriving pilgrims. The miracle's proximity to Jerusalem ensured widespread knowledge.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do miracles serve evangelistic purposes while not guaranteeing genuine conversion?
2. What's the difference between miracle-motivated interest and authentic faith?
3. Do you follow Jesus for who He is or primarily for what He does?

Interlinear Text

διὰ	τοῦτο	καὶ	ὑπήντησεν	αὐτὸν	ό	ὄχλος	ὅτι
cause	For this	also	met	him	G3588	the people	for that
G1223	G5124	G2532	G5221	G846		G3793	G3754
ἔκουσεν	τοῦτο	αὐτὸν	πεποιηκέναι	τὸ	σημεῖον		
they heard	For this	him	he had done	G3588	miracle		
G191	G5124	G846	G4160		G4592		

Additional Cross-References

John 12:11 (Parallel theme): Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.

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