

John 12:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

Analysis

The Pharisees despair: 'the world is gone after him,' revealing their loss of control. Their hyperbolic 'world' expresses frustration, yet prophetically anticipates Gentile inclusion in Christ's church. What they speak in frustration, God speaks in promise. Their statement ironically fulfills divine purpose—Jesus came precisely so the world might believe (3:16). Their perception of failure marks God's success. This demonstrates how opponents unwittingly prophesy truth while attempting to oppose it. The phrase previews the Great Commission's worldwide scope.

Historical Context

The Pharisees' statement reflects genuine political concern—Rome crushed popular movements brutally. Their theological opposition combined with pragmatic fear of losing influence.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do God's enemies unwittingly speak His truth in their opposition?

2. What does the Pharisees' frustration teach about attempting to control God's purposes?
3. In what ways has God used opposition to advance His kingdom in your experience?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	οὖν	Φαρισαῖοι	εἶπον	πρὸς	ἐαυτούς	Θεωρεῖτε	ὅτι
G3588	therefore	The Pharisees	said	among	themselves	Perceive ye	how
	G3767	G5330	G2036	G4314	G1438	G2334	G3754
οὐκ	ώφελεῖτε	οὐδέν·	ἴδε	ό	κόσμος	όπίσω	αὐτοῦ
nothing	ye prevail		G1492	G3588	the world	after	him
G3756	G5623				G2889	G3694	G846
ἀπῆλθεν							
is gone							
G565							

Additional Cross-References

Acts 17:6 (Parallel theme): And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

Psalms 22:27 (Parallel theme): All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

John 3:26 (Parallel theme): And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.