

John 12:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

Analysis

Jesus clarifies the voice came not for His benefit but theirs—He needed no confirmation but they needed testimony. This demonstrates Christ's other-centered ministry even in personal crisis. The divine voice serves pedagogical purpose: authenticating Jesus before witnesses. Jesus consistently points beyond Himself to the Father, even when receiving direct divine affirmation. This models humble ministry that uses divine confirmation to serve others rather than self-aggrandizement. The voice joins other witnesses to Jesus' divine sonship (John 5:31-40).

Historical Context

Jesus consistently sought not His own glory but the Father's (7:18). His clarification that the voice served the crowd demonstrates this consistent pattern of deflecting glory to God.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' clarification model using divine affirmation to serve others rather than self?
2. What does this teach about the purpose of spiritual experiences—self-confirmation or witness to others?
3. How can you use God's work in your life to authenticate the gospel to others?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν Οὐ δι' ἐμὲ αὕτη
answered G3588 Jesus and said not because of me This
G611 G2424 G2532 G2036 G3756 G1223 G1691 G3778

ἡ φωνὴ γέγονεν ἀλλὰ δι' ὑμᾶς
G3588 voice came but because of your sakes
G5456 G1096 G235 G1223 G5209

Additional Cross-References

John 11:42 (Parallel theme): And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

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