

John 12:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

Analysis

Jesus responds with urgency: 'Yet a little while is the light with you.' He identifies Himself as the light and warns of limited opportunity. The exhortation 'walk while ye have the light' calls for immediate response. Darkness represents judgment and spiritual blindness for those rejecting the light. Walking in darkness results in not knowing one's destination—spiritual lostness. This urgent appeal demonstrates grace's limited duration. Opportunity doesn't last forever. The warning anticipates Israel's hardening (v. 37-40) and foreshadows the destruction awaiting Jerusalem.

Historical Context

Jesus' ministry among Israel was brief, ending with His death. Within a generation, Jerusalem's destruction (AD 70) brought divine judgment on the nation. The urgency proved prophetic.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the limited time of light's presence teach about responding to gospel opportunity?
2. How does walking in darkness result in purposelessness and confusion?
3. In what area is God urgently calling you to 'walk in the light' before opportunity passes?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	οὖν	αὐτοῖς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ἔτι	μικρὸν	χρόνον	τὸ
said	Then	unto them	G3588	Jesus	Yet	a little	while	G3588
G2036	G3767	G846		G2424	G2089	G3398	G5550	
φῶς	μεθ'	ὕμῶν	ἐστίν	περιπατῶν	ἕως	τὸ	φῶς	
the light	with	you	is	Walk	while	G3588	the light	
G5457	G3326	G5216	G2076	G4043	G2193		G5457	
ἔχετε	ἵνα	μὴ	σκοτία	ὑμᾶς	καταλάβῃ·	καὶ	ὁ	
ye have	G2443	G3361	darkness	you	come upon	for	G3588	
G2192			G4653	G5209	G2638	G2532		
περιπατῶν	ἐν	τῇ	σκοτία	οὐκ	οἶδεν	ποῦ	ὑπάγει	
Walk	in	G3588	darkness	not	knoweth	whither	he goeth	
G4043	G1722		G4653	G3756	G1492	G4226	G5217	

Additional Cross-References

John 12:46 (Light): I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

John 16:16 (Parallel theme): A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

Ephesians 5:8 (Light): For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

John 8:12 (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 11:10 (Light): But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

Isaiah 2:5 (Light): O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

John 7:33 (References Jesus): Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.

John 12:36 (Light): While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.