

John 12:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus commands believing in the light to become 'children of light,' indicating that faith in Christ transforms identity. Belief doesn't merely change status but nature—believers become light-bearers, reflecting Christ's character (Matt 5:14). The exhortation is urgent: 'while ye have the light,' warning of opportunity's brevity. After this appeal, Jesus departs and hides, marking His public ministry's end. His withdrawal demonstrates that rejected light removes itself, a sobering warning about presuming on divine patience. The hiding previews judgment on unbelief.

Historical Context

This statement marks the conclusion of Jesus' public teaching in John's Gospel. Subsequent chapters focus on disciples. The withdrawal fulfilled prophetic patterns of rejected prophets.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does 'children of light' identity practically mean in daily Christian living?
2. How does Jesus' hiding teach about consequences of rejecting divine revelation?
3. In what ways are you reflecting Christ's light to those in darkness?

Interlinear Text

ἕως	τὸ	φωτὸς	ἔχετε	πιστεύετε	εἰς	τὸ	φωτὸς	ἵνα
While	G3588	light	ye have	believe	in	G3588	light	that
G2193		G5457	G2192	G4100	G1519		G5457	G2443
υἱοὶ	φωτὸς	γένησθε	Ταῦτα	ἐλάλησεν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς		
the children	light	ye may be	These things	spake	G3588	Jesus		
G5207	G5457	G1096	G5023	G2980		G2424		
καὶ	ἀπελθὼν	ἐκρύβη	ἀπ'	αὐτῶν				
and	and departed	did hide himself	from	them				
G2532	G565	G2928	G575	G846				

Additional Cross-References

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

John 8:59 (References Jesus): Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

1 Thessalonians 5:5 (Light): Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Luke 16:8 (Light): And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

Isaiah 60:1 (Light): Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

John 11:54 (References Jesus): Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

John 1:7 (Faith): The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

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