

John 12:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.

Analysis

Jesus states that seeing Him is seeing the Father, advancing His identity claim. This isn't mere representation but substantial unity—to see Jesus' character, works, and words is to see the Father revealed. The Greek verb 'theorei' suggests contemplative seeing, not merely physical sight. Philip later requests, 'show us the Father' (14:8-9), receiving this same answer. This demonstrates the incarnation's purpose: making the invisible God visible (1:18). Jesus fully reveals the Father's nature. Knowing Jesus is knowing God; rejecting Jesus is rejecting God.

Historical Context

The incarnation's central mystery is God becoming visible in human flesh. Jesus' claim to perfectly reveal the Father establishes His divine nature and unique mediatorial role (1 Tim 2:5).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' perfect revelation of the Father demonstrate His deity?
2. What does this teach about knowing God through knowing Christ?

3. In what ways does contemplating Jesus reveal the Father's character?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὁ	θεωρεῖ	ἐμὲ	θεωρεῖ	τὸν	πέμψαντά	με
And	G3588	he that seeth	me	he that seeth	G3588	him that sent	me
G2532		G2334	G1691	G2334		G3992	G3165

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 1:15 (Parallel theme): Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Parallel theme): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:3 (Parallel theme): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

John 12:41 (Parallel theme): These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.