

John 12:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

Analysis

Jesus affirms He spoke not independently but as the Father commanded. This demonstrates perfect submission—Jesus' teaching originated in divine counsel, not human wisdom. The Father 'gave commandment what I should say, and what I should speak' distinguishes content and delivery. Jesus perfectly executes the Father's will in message and method. This validates Jesus' teaching as divine revelation, not merely human opinion. His subordination in role doesn't diminish equality in essence—the economic Trinity shows functional submission with ontological equality.

Historical Context

Jesus consistently affirmed His teachings came from the Father (7:16; 8:28; 14:24). This claim to divine authorization distinguished Him from rabbis who cited human authorities. His authority was immediate, not derivative.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' perfect obedience to the Father model submission in authority structures?
2. What does this teach about Scripture's divine origin versus human opinion?
3. In what ways does Jesus' example challenge our tendency toward independent thinking versus divine revelation?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	ἐγὼ	ἐξ	ἐμαυτοῦ	οὐκ	λαλήσω	ἀλλ'	ὁ	πέμψας
For	I	of	myself	not	I should speak	but	G3588	which sent
G3754	G1473	G1537	G1683	G3756	G2980	G235		G3992
με	πατὴρ	αὐτός	μοι	ἐντολὴν	ἔδωκεν	τί	εἶπω	
me	the Father	G846	me	a commandment	he gave	what	I should say	
G3165	G3962		G3427	G1785	G1325	G5101	G2036	
καὶ	τί	λαλήσω						
and	what	I should speak						
G2532	G5101	G2980						

Additional Cross-References

John 14:10 (Word): Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

John 8:26 (Parallel theme): I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.

John 5:30 (Parallel theme): I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 17:8 (Word): For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

Deuteronomy 18:18 (Word): I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

John 14:31 (Word): But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

John 3:11 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

John 8:42 (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

John 3:32 (Parallel theme): And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

John 15:15 (Parallel theme): Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.