

John 12:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

Analysis

News of Jesus' presence draws crowds coming not only for Him but to see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. Lazarus becomes a walking testimony, his resurrection creating ongoing evangelistic impact. The crowd's dual interest—Jesus and His greatest sign—demonstrates how God's works authenticate His word. However, curiosity doesn't equal conversion. The crowds' desire to 'see' suggests spectacle-seeking, not necessarily faith-seeking. This prepares for the Triumphal Entry's crowds who later cry 'Crucify Him,' showing fickle popular enthusiasm.

Historical Context

News traveled rapidly in first-century Judea, especially during festival seasons when pilgrims gathered. Lazarus' resurrection occurred weeks earlier, giving news time to spread widely.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Lazarus' ongoing testimony demonstrate that transformed lives authenticate the Gospel?
2. What's the difference between curiosity about Jesus and commitment to Him?
3. In what ways can initial enthusiasm fail to produce lasting faith?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγνω οὖν ὄχλος πολὺς ἐκ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ὅτι ἐκεῖ
knew therefore people Much from G3588 the Jews that there
G1097 G3767 G3793 G4183 G1537 G2453 G3754 G1563

ἐστιν καὶ ἥλθον οὐ διὰ τὸν Ἰησοῦν μόνον ἀλλ' ἵνα
he was also they came not for G3588 Jesus sake only but that
G2076 G2532 G2064 G3756 G1223 G2424 G3440 G235 G2443

καὶ τὸν Λάζαρον ἴδωσιν ὃν ἤγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν
also G3588 Lazarus they might see whom he had raised from the dead
G2532 G2976 G1492 G3739 G1453 G1537 G3498

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:14 (Parallel theme): And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.