

John 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

Analysis

The Jews demand a sign authenticating Jesus' authority: 'What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?' They acknowledge His bold action requires authorization—who gave Him right to disrupt temple commerce? Their demand for signs reflects both legitimate concern and deeper unbelief. Jesus doesn't need external authentication; His actions themselves carry prophetic authority.

Historical Context

The temple was under the Sadducean high priests' control. Jesus' actions challenged their authority and income. Demanding signs was common (1 Corinthians 1:22)—Jews sought validating miracles. Jesus would provide the ultimate sign—His resurrection—but not on their terms or timeline.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why do people demand signs before believing, and how should we respond to such demands?
2. What is the relationship between signs and faith in Jesus' ministry?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθησαν	οὖν	οἱ	Ἰουδαῖοι	καὶ	εἶπον	αὐτῷ	Τί
answered	Then	G3588	the Jews	and	said	unto him	What
G611	G3767		G2453	G2532	G2036	G846	G5101
σημεῖον	δεικνύεις	ἡμῖν	ὅτι	ταῦτα	ποιεῖς		
sign	shewest thou	unto us	seeing that	these things	thou doest		
G4592	G1166	G2254	G3754	G5023	G4160		

Additional Cross-References

John 6:30 (Parallel theme): They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?