

John 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

Analysis

Many believed during the Passover feast 'when they saw the miracles which he did.' This sign-based faith was genuine but inadequate. Jesus performed miracles, people believed—but Jesus' response (verse 24) shows this faith is immature. Signs can produce belief, but belief based solely on miracles may not endure. True faith trusts Christ's word, not merely His works.

Historical Context

This is the first mention of 'many' believing in Jesus. Yet John distinguishes levels of faith throughout his Gospel. Those who believe because of signs may fall away when signs cease. The disciples who 'believed the scripture and the word' (verse 22) have a more stable foundation than those who merely saw miracles.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between faith based on signs and faith based on Christ's word?
2. How can initial faith be deepened into mature trust?

Interlinear Text

Ως δὲ ἦν ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις ἐν τῷ πάσχα ἐν
when Now he was at Jerusalem at G3588 the passover at
G5613 G1161 G2258 G1722 G2414 G1722 G3957 G1722

τῇ ἑορτῇ πολλοὶ ἐπίστευσαν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ
the feast day many believed in G3588 name his
G3588 G1859 G4183 G4100 G1519 G3686 G846

θεωροῦντες αὐτοῦ τὰ σημεῖα ἀ ἐποίει.
when they saw his G3588 G4592 which he did
G2334 G846 G3739 G4160

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:13 (Faith): They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

John 6:14 (Parallel theme): Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

John 7:31 (Faith): And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

Galatians 5:6 (Faith): For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.