

John 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

Analysis

Jesus contrasts earthly and heavenly testimony: 'We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.' The plural 'we' may include the disciples or the Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit. Jesus' testimony comes from firsthand divine knowledge, yet 'ye receive not.' The problem isn't insufficient evidence but unwilling hearts. Truth is rejected despite its authority and clarity.

Historical Context

Jesus claims eyewitness knowledge of heavenly realities (verse 13). His testimony is unique—no other teacher speaks from personal observation of divine truth. Yet Israel's leaders reject this testimony. The pattern continues: those with most religious advantage often prove most resistant to spiritual truth.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why do those with the most religious background sometimes resist new spiritual truth?

2. What distinguishes Jesus' testimony from all other religious teachers?

Interlinear Text

ἀμὴν	ἀμὴν	λέγω	σοι	ὅτι	ὃ	οἶδαμεν	λαλοῦμεν	καὶ
Verily	Verily	I say	unto thee	that	that	we do know	We speak	and
G281	G281	G3004	G4671	G3754	G3739	G1492	G2980	G2532
ὃ	ἐώρακαμεν	μαρτυροῦμεν	καὶ	τὴν	μαρτυρίαν	ἡμῶν		
that	we have seen	testify	and	G3588	witness	our		
G3739	G3708	G3140	G2532		G3141	G2257		
οὐ	λαμβάνετε							
not	ye receive							
G3756	G2983							

Additional Cross-References

John 8:38 (Parallel theme): I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

John 12:49 (Parallel theme): 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.

John 14:24 (Parallel theme): He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

John 1:18 (Parallel theme): No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 7:16 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

John 8:14 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

Isaiah 65:2 (Parallel theme): I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Parallel theme): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Isaiah 50:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

Isaiah 53:1 (Parallel theme): Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

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