

John 4:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

Analysis

Jesus' statement 'I have meat to eat that ye know not of' introduces the theme of spiritual nourishment. The phrase 'ye know not of' indicates that the disciples, despite their time with Jesus, still had much to learn about kingdom priorities. Christ's sustenance came from fulfilling the Father's redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

This exchange likely occurred while the Samaritans were walking from the city toward Jesus (v. 30). The physical setting becomes a teaching moment about spiritual realities.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that obedience to God provides spiritual nourishment?
2. How can we cultivate spiritual appetites that exceed physical ones?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	Ἐγὼ	βρώσιν	ἔχω	φαγεῖν	ἦν
G3588	But	he said	unto them	I	meat	have	to eat	that
	G1161	G2036	G846	G1473	G1035	G2192	G5315	G3739
ὁμεῖς	οὐκ	οἶδατε						
ye	not	know						
G5210	G3756	G1492						

Additional Cross-References

Job 23:12 (Parallel theme): Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

John 4:34 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Psalms 119:103 (Parallel theme): How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Jeremiah 15:16 (Parallel theme): Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Proverbs 18:20 (Parallel theme): A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

Psalms 63:5 (Parallel theme): My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

Psalms 25:14 (Parallel theme): The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Proverbs 14:10 (Parallel theme): The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.