

John 4:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.

Analysis

Jesus' statement that 'a prophet hath no honour in his own country' explains why He left Judea for Galilee (or why His Galilean ministry would face challenges). This proverb reflects the reality that familiarity breeds contempt—those who knew Jesus' humble origins struggled to accept His divine mission. Truth often faces greatest resistance from those who should know better.

Historical Context

This saying appears in all four Gospels. In context, 'his own country' likely refers to Judea (where He was born) or possibly Nazareth in Galilee. Both regions would later show considerable unbelief despite His presence and miracles.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does familiarity with Christ sometimes hinder rather than help faith?
2. How do we overcome prejudice based on humble origins or circumstances to recognize God's work?

Interlinear Text

αὐτὸς γὰρ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐμαρτύρησεν ὅτι προφήτης ἐν
himself For G3588 Jesus testified that a prophet in
G846 G1063 G2424 G3140 G3754 G4396 G1722

τῇ ιδίᾳ πατρίδι τιμὴν οὐκ ἔχει
G3588 his own country honour no hath
G2398 G3968 G5092 G3756 G2192

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:57 (Prophecy): And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

Luke 4:24 (Prophecy): And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

Mark 6:4 (Prophecy): But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.