

John 4:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

Analysis

Jesus' rebuke 'Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe' addresses not just the nobleman but the Galileans generally. This critiques sign-dependent faith while also testing the nobleman's trust. True faith believes Christ's word apart from visible evidence. The Reformed tradition emphasizes that faith is 'the evidence of things not seen' (Hebrews 11:1).

Historical Context

This statement recalls Jesus' commendation of those who believe without seeing (John 20:29). The Galileans' welcome based on witnessed miracles (v. 45) exemplifies the sign-seeking mentality Jesus challenges.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why is faith that depends on constant miraculous confirmation immature or insufficient?
2. How do we grow from demanding signs to trusting Christ's word alone?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	οὖν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	πρὸς	αὐτόν	Ἐὰν	μὴ	σημεῖα	καὶ
said	Then	G3588	Jesus	unto	him	G1437	G3361	signs	and
G2036	G3767		G2424	G4314	G846			G4592	G2532
τέρατα	ἴδητε	οὐ	μὴ	πιστεύσητε					
wonders	ye see	G3756	G3361	believe					
G5059	G1492			G4100					

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 2:4 (Parallel theme): God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

John 20:29 (Faith): Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

1 Corinthians 1:22 (Parallel theme): For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

Daniel 4:2 (Parallel theme): I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.

Acts 2:22 (References Jesus): Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Acts 14:3 (Parallel theme): Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Mark 13:22 (Parallel theme): For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

Romans 15:19 (Parallel theme): Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Matthew 24:24 (Parallel theme): For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

John 12:37 (Faith): But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

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