

John 5:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

Analysis

The Jews' persecution of Jesus 'because he had done these things on the sabbath day' reveals the conflict between Christ's redemptive mission and religious traditionalism. Their focus on 'these things' (healing, commanding to carry a bed) rather than the miracle's compassionate purpose shows how externalism corrupts true religion. Christ came to fulfill, not abolish, the Sabbath's purpose.

Historical Context

This persecution marks escalating opposition that will climax in crucifixion. The Pharisaic interpretation of Sabbath law had expanded God's command into elaborate restrictions that undermined the Sabbath's redemptive purpose (rest, restoration, worship).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do human additions to God's law sometimes contradict His gracious purposes?
2. What does Jesus' Sabbath healing teach about the Sabbath's true meaning and purpose?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	διὰ	τοῦτο	ἐδίωκον	τὸν	Ἰησοῦν	οἱ	Ἰουδαῖοι	καὶ
And	therefore	G5124	did	G3588	Jesus	G3588	the Jews	And
G2532	G1223		G1377		G2424		G2453	G2532
ἐζήτουν	αὐτὸν	ἀποκτεῖναι,	ὅτι	ταῦτα	ἐποίει	ἐν		
sought	him	to slay	because	these things	he had done	on		
G2212	G846	G615	G3754	G5023	G4160	G1722		
σαββάτῳ								
the sabbath day								
G4521								

Additional Cross-References

John 15:20 (Parallel theme): Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your's also.

John 10:39 (Parallel theme): Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,