

John 6:61

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

Analysis

When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? Jesus's knowledge 'in himself' (en heautō) indicates either supernatural insight or perceptive observation—likely both. The verb 'eggongouousin' (murmured) echoes Israel's wilderness grumbling (Exodus 16:2, Numbers 14:2), creating an ominous parallel between these disciples and unfaithful Israel. Jesus's question 'Does this offend you?' (touto humas skandalizei) acknowledges the stumbling block but doesn't remove it. The verb 'skandalizō' means to cause to stumble, to offend, to be a trap. Christ's person and work are deliberately a skandalon (stumbling stone, 1 Peter 2:8) to test hearts. Reformed theology emphasizes that God ordains both the gospel's proclamation and its effects—some believe unto salvation, others reject unto judgment. Jesus doesn't soft-pedal His message to retain followers; truth matters more than numbers.

Historical Context

The wilderness generation's murmuring led to their dying in the desert without entering the promised land (Numbers 14:22-23). Jesus's use of 'murmuring' creates a sobering parallel: these disciples, like unfaithful Israel, grumble at God's provision and face rejection. The question 'Does this offend you?' is rhetorical—Jesus knows it does and intensifies the offense in verse 62 rather than softening it. This contrasts sharply with modern church-growth strategies that minimize offense. Jesus prioritizes truth over popularity, faithfulness over numbers. For John's persecuted first-century audience, this was encouraging—they faced offense

and rejection for confessing Christ, but Jesus Himself experienced and even precipitated such rejection. The gospel's offense is not a bug but a feature, dividing humanity based on response to Christ.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus ask if they're offended rather than explaining away the offense?
2. What does the 'murmuring' parallel with wilderness Israel teach about rejecting God's provision?
3. How should the church handle gospel truths that offend contemporary sensibilities?

Interlinear Text

εἰδὼς	δὲ	οὐ	Ἰησοῦς	ἐν	ἐαυτῷ	ὅτι	γογγύζουσιν	περὶ
knew	When	G3588	Jesus	in	himself	that	murmured	at
G1492	G1161		G2424	G1722	G1438	G3754	G1111	G4012
τούτου	οἱ	μαθηταὶ	αὐτοῖς	εἴπεν	αὐτοῖς	Τοῦτο	ὑμᾶς	
it	G3588	disciples	his	he said	his	Doth this	you	
G5127		G3101	G846	G2036	G846	G5124	G5209	
σκανδαλίζει								
offend								
G4624								

Additional Cross-References

John 6:64 (References Jesus): But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

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