

John 7:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

Analysis

Despite teaching publicly in the temple treasury where arrests could easily occur, no one seized Jesus because 'his hour was not yet come.' This demonstrates divine sovereignty over all circumstances, including the timing of Christ's death. Reformed theology emphasizes God's providence - all events, even hostile opposition, serve God's redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

The temple treasury was heavily guarded with temple police nearby. That Jesus taught openly there yet remained free illustrates divine protection until the appointed time.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign timing provide confidence in difficult circumstances?
2. When have you seen God's providence protecting you from harm?

3. What does Christ's fearless teaching despite threats model for believers?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη	ὁ	ὄχλος	καὶ	εἶπεν	Δαιμόνιον	ἔχεις·	τίς
answered	G3588	The people	and	said	a devil	Thou hast	who
G611		G3793	G2532	G2036	G1140	G2192	G5101
σε	ζητεῖ	ἀποκτεῖναι					
thee	goeth about	to kill					
G4571	G2212	G615					

Additional Cross-References

John 10:20 (Evil): And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

John 8:48 (Evil): Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

John 8:52 (Evil): Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

Mark 3:30 (Parallel theme): Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.