

John 7:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel.

Analysis

Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel. Jesus refers to the John 5 healing of the paralytic at Bethesda pool on the Sabbath, which provoked murderous hostility (5:16-18). 'One work' (hen ergon) emphasizes singularity—this one controversial healing has dominated their thinking. The verb 'marvel' (thaumazete) can mean amazement or indignation. Reformed theology sees Christ's works as demonstrating His divine authority and compassion, revealing the Father's heart even when timing offends human traditions.

Historical Context

The Bethesda healing occurred months earlier during a different feast. That one Sabbath healing haunted the authorities. First-century Judaism developed elaborate Sabbath regulations (39 categories of forbidden work in Mishnah), making healing controversial unless life-threatening. Jesus systematically challenged such legalism, asserting Sabbath was made for humanity, not humanity for Sabbath (Mark 2:27).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do religious traditions sometimes obscure God's purposes?
2. What does Jesus's Sabbath healing reveal about God's priorities?
3. Why do religious authorities often fixate on rule-breaking rather than mercy?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς Ἐν ἔργον
answered G3588 Jesus and said unto them one work
G611 G2424 G2532 G2036 G846 G1520 G2041

ἔποιησα καὶ πάντες θαυμάζετε
I have done and all marvel
G4160 G2532 G3956 G2296

Additional Cross-References

John 7:23 (Parallel theme): If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

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