

John 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

Analysis

His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. Jesus's 'brethren' (adelphoi) were likely His half-siblings through Mary (Matthew 13:55 names them: James, Joses, Simon, Judas). Their advice to 'go into Judaea' contradicts wisdom—Judea is dangerous (verse 1). They urge public display 'that thy disciples also may see' your works, revealing worldly thinking about power and fame. Their counsel shows misunderstanding of Jesus's mission and timing. The phrase 'thy disciples' may refer to broader followers beyond the Twelve. Reformed theology notes that physical relationship to Jesus (being His brother) doesn't guarantee spiritual insight. Even family members can fail to recognize Christ's divine mission without Spirit-given faith.

Historical Context

Jesus's brothers didn't believe in Him during His earthly ministry (verse 5 confirms this). Only after resurrection did they become believers—James became Jerusalem church leader and epistle author; Jude wrote the epistle bearing his name. Their unbelief parallels Isaiah 53:3: 'He is despised and rejected of men.' Growing up with Jesus, His brothers saw Him as merely human, perhaps viewing His messianic claims as delusion or family embarrassment. First-century Jewish messianic expectations emphasized public power demonstrations, military victory, and political liberation. Jesus's low-key Galilean ministry confused even His family.

After Pentecost, the brothers' conversion testified powerfully to Christ's resurrection reality.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the brothers' unbelief demonstrate that familiarity with Jesus doesn't guarantee faith?
2. What worldly assumptions about success and power are reflected in the brothers' advice?
3. Why is public acclaim often contrary to God's timing and methods?

Interlinear Text

εἶπον	οὖν	πρὸς	αὐτοῦ	οἱ	ἀδελφοὶ	αὐτοῦ	Μετάβηθι
said	therefore	unto	His	G3588	brethren	His	Depart
G2036	G3767	G4314	G846		G80	G846	G3327
ἐντεῦθεν	καὶ	ὑπάγε	εἰς	τὴν	Ἰουδαίαν	ἵνα	καὶ οἱ
hence	also	go	into	G3588	Judaea	that	also
G1782	G2532	G5217	G1519		G2449	G2443	G2532
μαθηταί	σοῦ	θεωρήσωσιν	τὰ	ἔργα	σοῦ	ἃ	ποιεῖς·
disciples	thou	may see	G3588	the works	thou	that	doest
G3101	G4675	G2334		G2041	G4675	G3739	G4160

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 12:46 (Parallel theme): While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

John 7:5 (Parallel theme): For neither did his brethren believe in him.

