

John 7:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

Analysis

And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done? While authorities plot arrest, many people believe. Their faith is based on miracles—'will he do more miracles than these?' This is imperfect faith (John 2:23-25 warns against sign-based belief), but John still calls it believing. The question is rhetorical—surely Messiah wouldn't do more miracles than Jesus has done. Their logic: if miracles validate, Jesus qualifies.

Historical Context

First-century Jews expected Messiah to perform miraculous signs (Isaiah 35:5-6). Jesus's healing, feeding crowds, and other miracles met these expectations. Yet sign-based faith is unreliable (John 2:23-25, 6:26) without heart transformation. Many who 'believed' based on miracles later abandoned Jesus (6:66). True faith believes Christ's person and teaching, not just His works.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between sign-based faith and genuine saving faith?
2. Can miracles convince someone to truly believe, or is more required?
3. Why does John mention this imperfect faith at all?

Interlinear Text

πολλοὶ	δὲ	Ἐκ	τοῦ	ὄχλου	ἐπίστευσαν	εἰς	αὐτόν	καὶ
many	And	of	G3588	the people	believed	on	him	and
G4183	G1161	G1537		G3793	G4100	G1519	G846	G2532
ἔλεγον	ὅτι	Ὁ	Χριστὸς	ὅταν	ἔλθῃ	μήτι	πλείονα	
said	G3754	G3588	Christ	When	cometh	will he do	more	
G3004			G5547	G3752	G2064	G3385	G4119	
σημεῖα	τούτων	ἐποίησεν	ᾧ	οὗτος	ἐποίησεν			
miracles	than these	man hath done	which	this	man hath done			
G4592	G5130	G4160	G3739	G3778	G4160			

Additional Cross-References

John 12:42 (Faith): Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

Matthew 12:23 (Parallel theme): And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

Acts 8:13 (Faith): Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

John 11:45 (Faith): Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

John 9:16 (Parallel theme): Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

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