

John 7:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?

Analysis

Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? The Pharisees appeal to authority—no rulers or Pharisees believe, implying belief would be foolish. This argument from elite consensus dismisses the common people's faith. Yet it's false—Nicodemus (verse 50) was a Pharisee ruler who believed, as was Joseph of Arimathea (John 19:38-39). More rulers believed secretly (John 12:42) but feared confession. The appeal to authority fallacy substitutes expert opinion for truth investigation.

Historical Context

First-century Jewish society was hierarchical—the religious elite's opinions carried weight. Yet Jesus's followers were predominantly common people, fishermen, tax collectors, women—the despised and marginalized (1 Corinthians 1:26-29). God chose the foolish to shame the wise, the weak to shame the strong. Throughout church history, the gospel often spreads among the marginalized before penetrating elite circles. This continues God's pattern of exalting the humble and humbling the proud.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why does the gospel often reach common people before elites?
2. What spiritual dangers face those with status, education, or authority?
3. How do we avoid dismissing truth because common people believe it?

Interlinear Text

μή τις ἐκ τῶν ἀρχόντων ἐπίστευσεν εἰς αὐτὸν ἢ
G3361 G5100 of G3588 the rulers believed on him or
G1537 G758 G4100 G1519 G846 G2228

ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων
of G3588 the Pharisees
G1537 G5330

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:

1 Corinthians 2:8 (Parallel theme): Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

1 Corinthians 1:20 (Parallel theme): Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

John 7:26 (Parallel theme): But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?