

John 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

Analysis

The Pharisees' question 'Where is thy Father?' reveals profound spiritual blindness. Standing before the incarnate Son, they ask where the Father is. Jesus' response is devastating: knowing Him means knowing the Father; their failure to know Him proves they don't know God. This destroys claims to know God apart from Christ - all true knowledge of God comes through the Son.

Historical Context

The Pharisees claimed special knowledge of God through Torah study and tradition. Jesus declares their ignorance despite religious expertise, showing that even correct religious activity without Christ leaves one ignorant of God.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How fully does Jesus reveal the Father to you?
2. Can anyone truly know God apart from knowing Christ?

3. What does it mean to 'know' God versus knowing facts about God?

Interlinear Text

ἔλεγον	οὖν	αὐτῷ	Ποῦ	ἐστιν	ὁ	πατέρα	σου
said they	Then	unto him	Where	is	G3588	Father	thy
G3004	G3767	G846	G4226	G2076		G3962	G4675
ἀπεκρίθη	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	οὔτε	ἐμὲ	ἤδeite	οὔτε	τὸν πατέρα
answered	G3588	Jesus	neither	me	Ye	neither	G3588 Father
G611		G2424	G3777	G1691	G1492	G3777	G3962
μου	εἰ	ἐμὲ	ἤδeite	καὶ	τὸν	πατέρα	μου ἤδeite ἄν
my	if	me	Ye	G2532	G3588	Father	my Ye also
G3450	G1487	G1691	G1492			G3962	G3450 G1492 G302

Additional Cross-References

John 16:3 (Parallel theme): And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

Matthew 11:25 (References Jesus): At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

1 Corinthians 15:34 (Parallel theme): Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

John 7:28 (References Jesus): Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

John 1:10 (Parallel theme): He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Jeremiah 24:7 (Parallel theme): And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

Galatians 4:9 (Parallel theme): But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

2 John 1:9 (Parallel theme): Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

1 John 5:20 (References Jesus): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Jeremiah 22:16 (Parallel theme): He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know me? saith the LORD.