

John 8:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith,
Whither I go, ye cannot come.

Analysis

The Jews mockingly ask if Jesus will kill Himself, since He says they cannot follow Him. Their hardness manifests in cynical jest about the gravest spiritual warnings. Suicides were considered especially cursed, so suggesting Jesus would kill Himself was deeply insulting. Yet their mockery ironically touches truth - Jesus will lay down His life voluntarily, though by crucifixion, not suicide.

Historical Context

First-century Judaism considered suicide particularly shameful, believing suicides went to the darkest part of Sheol. The Jews' question thus combines mockery with profound insult.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does hard-heartedness manifest in mockery of spiritual truth?
2. When are you tempted to joke about or dismiss serious spiritual warnings?
3. What does their response reveal about the condition of their hearts?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	οὖν	οἱ	Ἰουδαῖοι	Μήτι	ἀποκτενεῖ	ἐαυτόν	ὅτι
he saith	Then	G3588	the Jews	Will he kill	G615	himself	because
G3004	G3767		G2453	G3385		G1438	G3754
λέγει	Ὅπου	ἐγὼ	ὑπάγω	ὑμεῖς	οὐ	δύνασθε	ἐλθεῖν
he saith	Whither	I	go	ye	cannot	G1410	come
G3004	G3699	G1473	G5217	G5210	G3756		G2064

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 22:6 (Parallel theme): But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

John 8:52 (Parallel theme): Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

John 8:48 (Parallel theme): Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?