

John 9:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.

Analysis

The Jews' refusal to believe the miracle demonstrates willful unbelief. They call the man's parents to testify, seeking loopholes to deny the obvious. This illustrates that unbelief is ultimately moral, not intellectual - no amount of evidence convinces those determined not to believe. Jesus' earlier words prove true: some see and become blind (v. 39).

Historical Context

Calling parents as witnesses follows Jewish investigatory procedure, but here it's motivated by desire to deny rather than discover truth. Their unbelief was impervious to evidence.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What causes people to reject clear evidence of God's work?
2. When have you seen willful unbelief resist obvious truth?

3. How do you distinguish genuine questioning from determined unbelief?

Interlinear Text

Οὐκ	ἐπίστευσαν	οὖν	οἱ	Ἰουδαῖοι	περὶ	αὐτοῦ	ὅτι
not	believe	But	G3588	the Jews	concerning	him	that
G3756	G4100	G3767		G2453	G4012	G846	G3754
τυφλὸς	ἥν	καὶ	ἀναβλέψαντος	ἔως	ὅτου	έφωνησαν	
blind	he had been	and	received his sight	until	G3755	they called	
G5185	G2258	G2532	G308	G2193		G5455	
τοὺς	γονεῖς	αὐτοῦ	τοῦ	ἀναβλέψαντος			
G3588	the parents	him	G3588	received his sight			
	G1118	G846		G308			

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org