

John 9:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

Analysis

'These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess him to be Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.' The parents' evasion stems from fear. Excommunication from the synagogue meant social, economic, and religious exclusion. The cost of confessing Christ was tangible and severe. Fear of man produces compromise; the parents defer to their son to avoid risk.

Historical Context

Synagogue expulsion (cherem) was a serious penalty involving social ostracism and economic consequences. Later this would become formal policy against Christians (John 16:2). The parents' fear reflects real social pressure that shaped responses to Jesus.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does fear of social consequences affect willingness to confess Christ?
2. What 'synagogue expulsions' do believers face today for confessing Christ?

Interlinear Text

ταῦτα	εἶπον	οἱ	γονεῖς	αὐτόν	ὅτι	έφοβοῦντο	τούς
These	words spake	G3588	parents	his	because	they feared	G3588
G5023	G2036		G1118	G846	G3754	G5399	
Ἰουδαῖοι	ἤδη	γάρ	συνετέθειντο	οἱ	Ἰουδαῖοι	ἵνα	έάν
the Jews	already	for	had agreed	G3588	the Jews	that	if
G2453	G2235	G1063	G4934		G2453	G2443	G1437
τις	αὐτόν	ὁμολογήσῃ	Χριστόν	ἀποσυνάγωγος			
any man	his	did confess	was Christ	put out of the synagogue			
G5100	G846	G3670	G5547	G656			
γέννηται							
he should be							
G1096							

Additional Cross-References

John 7:13 (Parallel theme): Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.

John 16:2 (Parallel theme): They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

Luke 6:22 (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

John 9:34 (Parallel theme): They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

