

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 αὐτὸν ὅτι ἐφοβοῦντο τοὺς
These words spoke G3588 parents his because they feared G3588
G5023 G2036 G1118 G846 G3754 G5399

Ἰουδαῖοι ἥδη γὰρ συνετέθειντο οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἵνα ἐάν
the Jews already for had agreed G3588 the Jews that if
G2453 G2235 G1063 G4934 G2453 G2443 G1437

τις αὐτὸν ὁμολογήσῃ Χριστόν ἀποσυνάγωγος
any man his did confess was Christ put out of the synagogue
G5100 G846 G3670 G5547 G656

γένηται
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.

