

John 9:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

Analysis

John explains the parents' fear: Jews had agreed to excommunicate anyone confessing Jesus as Messiah. This reveals the cost of discipleship - social, religious, and economic exclusion. Synagogue excommunication meant being cut off from Jewish community, affecting business, social standing, and family relationships. Yet the man will choose Christ over security.

Historical Context

Excommunication (Greek: *aposunagōgos*) meant being banned from synagogue worship and social interaction with the Jewish community. For first-century Jews, this was catastrophic, severing all primary relationships.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What costs do you face for confessing Christ?
2. How do you weigh the cost of discipleship against the value of Christ?
3. What fears keep you from fuller confession of faith?

Interlinear Text

διὰ	τοῦτο	οἱ	γονεῖς	αὐτὸν	εἶπον,	ὅτι	Ἡλικίαν	ἔχει
Therefore	G5124	G3588	parents	him	said	G3754	of age	He is
G1223			G1118	G846	G2036		G2244	G2192
αὐτὸν	ἐρωτήσατε							
him	ask							
G846	G2065							

Additional Cross-References

John 9:21 (Parallel theme): But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

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