

John 9:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Analysis

'I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.' Jesus expresses urgency. His 'day' of earthly ministry is limited; 'night' (death, arrest, end of public ministry) approaches. While opportunity exists, He must work. This models faithful stewardship of time. 'The works of him that sent me' emphasizes mission consciousness. Jesus worked with deadline awareness.

Historical Context

This verse introduces the healing with urgency motif. Jesus' ministry had limited duration. His 'night' would come at the cross. The principle extends to believers—we too have limited 'day' for our work. Procrastination squanders opportunity.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does awareness of limited time affect how we use present opportunities?
2. What 'works' has God sent you to do while it is still 'day' for you?

Interlinear Text

ἐμὲ δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι τὰ ἔργα τοῦ πέμψαντός με ἔως
I must work the works of him that sent me while
G1691 G1163 G2038 G3588 G2041 G3588 G3992 G3165 G2193

ἡμέρα ἔστιν· ἔρχεται νὺξ ὅτε οὐδεὶς δύναται
day it is cometh the night when no man can
G2250 G2076 G2064 G3571 G3753 G3762 G1410

ἐργάζεσθαι

work
G2038

Additional Cross-References

John 12:35 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

John 4:34 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Ephesians 5:16 (Parallel theme): Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (Parallel theme): Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Galatians 6:10 (Parallel theme): As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

John 17:4 (Parallel theme): I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Colossians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

John 5:36 (Parallel theme): But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

John 10:32 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

Acts 4:20 (Parallel theme): For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

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