

Luke 1:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

Analysis

Making signs to Zacharias 'how he would have him called' shows respect for paternal authority despite his muteness. Their expectation that Zacharias would choose the name reveals assumption of his decision-making role. The detail emphasizes Zacharias's continued inability to speak nine months after Gabriel's appearance, confirming the sign's duration and severity. This moment of requiring Zacharias's confirmation builds dramatic tension—will he agree with Elisabeth or contradict her? Will he obey God or yield to family pressure? His response will demonstrate whether nine months of silent discipline have produced humble submission to God's word. The community's seeking his input shows proper order even while he cannot speak.

Historical Context

Despite Elisabeth's clear statement, the community defers to Zacharias as father and household head. His nine months of muteness would have made him dependent on written communication, adding weight to whatever he would write in response.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God use extended periods of discipline to work humility and obedience?
2. What is the proper balance between respecting human authority and obeying divine direction?
3. How do we respond when tested whether we'll maintain obedience under pressure?

Interlinear Text

ἐνένευον	δὲ	τῷ	πατρὶ	αὐτόν	τὸ	τί	ἂν	θέλοι
they made signs	And	G3588	father	him	G3588	how	G302	he would have
G1770	G1161		G3962	G846		G5101		G2309
καλεῖσθαι αὐτόν								
called	him							
G2564	G846							

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:22 (Parallel theme): And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.