

Luke 10:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately,
Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:

Analysis

And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see. The phrase *strapheis pros tous mathētas kat' idian* (στραφεῖς πρὸς τοὺς μαθητὰς κατ' ἰδίαν, "turning to the disciples privately") indicates Jesus deliberately shifts from public teaching to intimate instruction. This blessing is for disciples alone—those with eyes to see spiritual reality beyond physical phenomena.

The word *makarioi* (μακάριοι, "blessed") echoes the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)—this is divine favor, spiritual happiness, and covenant privilege. The emphasis on **the eyes which see** (*hoi ophthalmoi hoi blepontes, οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ οἱ βλέποντες*) uses the present participle, indicating ongoing sight, not mere glancing. These disciples aren't merely witnessing historical events—they're perceiving spiritual truth: God incarnate among them, the kingdom breaking into history, prophecy fulfilled before their faces.

This blessing follows Jesus' statement about mutual Father-Son knowledge (v. 22) and precedes the observation about prophets and kings longing to see this day (v. 24). The disciples occupy a unique redemptive-historical position: they witness what Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah—all the faithful saints—yearned to see but died in faith not having received (Hebrews 11:13, 39-40). Yet even greater blessing awaits those who believe without seeing (John 20:29).

Historical Context

Jesus spoke these words during His earthly ministry, likely in the months before His crucifixion. The disciples had just returned from successful mission (vv. 17-20) and heard Jesus' teaching about knowing the Father through the Son (v. 22). This private instruction emphasizes the disciples' privileged position as eyewitnesses of Messiah—a role that would become foundational for apostolic authority and the writing of New Testament Scripture (1 John 1:1-3, 2 Peter 1:16-18).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What specific things were the disciples seeing that made them blessed, beyond the physical presence of Jesus?
2. How can believers today cultivate spiritual sight to perceive Christ's presence and kingdom work around us?
3. Why does Jesus give this blessing privately to disciples rather than publicly to the crowds?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	στραφεὶς	πρὸς	οἱ	μαθητὰς	κατ'	ιδίαν	εἶπεν
And	he turned him	unto	which	his disciples	G2596	privately	and said
G2532	G4762	G4314	G3588	G3101		G2398	G2036

Μακάριοι	οἱ	ὀφθαλμοὶ	οἱ	βλέπετε	ἃ	βλέπετε
Blessed	which	are the eyes	which	see	the things that	see
G3107	G3588	G3788	G3588	G991	G3739	G991