

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* (στραφεὶς πρὸς τοὺς μαθητὰς κατ' ιδίαν, "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 ὄφθαλμοὶ 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' ἴδιαν εἶπεν
And he turned him unto which his disciples privately and said
G2532 G4762 G4314 G3588 G3101 G2596 G2398 G2036

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