

Luke 10:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

Analysis

And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. The conditional clause *kai eis hēn an polin eiserchēsthe kai dechōntai hymas* (καὶ εἰς ἥν ἂν πόλιν εἰσέρχησθε καὶ δέχωνται ὑμᾶς, "and into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you") uses the present subjunctive *dechōntai* (δέχωνται, "they receive"), indicating welcome and hospitality.

The command **eat such things as are set before you** (*esthiete ta paratithemena hymin, ἐσθίετε τὰ παρατιθέμενα ὑμῖν*) repeats verse 7's instruction with expanded application to entire cities, not just individual households. The present imperative commands ongoing action—consistently accept what's offered. For Jewish disciples, this would challenge kosher dietary laws when entering Gentile territories.

This anticipates the church's breakthrough in Acts 10-11, where Peter's vision declared all foods clean and opened the gospel to Gentiles. Paul later addressed food controversies in Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8-10, teaching that **the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit** (Romans 14:17). The gospel transcends ceremonial law and cultural boundaries.

Historical Context

Jewish dietary laws (kashrut) were identity markers separating Jews from Gentiles. Eating non-kosher food or at Gentile tables risked ceremonial defilement. Jesus' instruction to eat whatever was served challenged these boundaries, preparing disciples for universal mission. When the seventy encountered Samaritan or Gentile cities, they would face food that violated Levitical law. Jesus prioritized mission over ceremonial purity, foreshadowing the new covenant's replacement of external law with internal transformation.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' command to eat whatever is served challenge both legalism and cultural superiority in Christian witness?
2. What does this verse teach about the relationship between ceremonial law and gospel mission?
3. How should modern missionaries balance cultural sensitivity with the freedom Jesus grants to 'eat such things as are set before you'?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἰς	ἣν	δ'	ἂν	πόλιν	εἰσέρχησθε	καὶ	δέχωνται
And	into	G3739	whatsoever	G302	city	ye enter	And	they receive
G2532	G1519		G1161		G4172	G1525	G2532	G1209
ὑμᾶς	ἐσθίετε	τὰ	παρατιθέμενα	ὑμῖν				
you	eat such things	G3588	as are set before	you				
G5209	G2068		G3908	G5213				

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:27 (Parallel theme): If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

Matthew 10:40 (Parallel theme): He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

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