

Luke 11:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things:

Analysis

And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently (Κάκεῖθεν ἐξελθόντος αὐτοῦ ἤρξαντο οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι δεινῶς ἐνέχειν)—Luke narrates the aftermath of Jesus's six woes. *Deinōs* (vehemently, terribly) describes their intense response. *Enechein* (urge, press upon) suggests hostile pressure—they began interrogating him aggressively. **And to provoke him to speak of many things** (καὶ ἀποστοματίζειν αὐτὸν περὶ πλειόνων)—*apostomatizō* (provoke to speak) literally means 'to question from the mouth,' rapid-fire questioning designed to elicit incriminating statements.

Jesus's prophetic denunciation provoked exactly the response he predicted—opposition, hostility, attempts to trap him. Rather than repenting under conviction, they hardened in antagonism. This pattern confirms Jesus's diagnosis: they are their fathers' sons, rejecting the Prophet as their ancestors rejected the prophets.

Historical Context

Ancient rhetorical combat involved rapid questioning to expose contradictions or force self-incrimination. The scribes and Pharisees shifted from hosting Jesus (v.37) to hostile interrogation. Luke foreshadows Jesus's trials—religious leaders questioning him, seeking accusations to bring before civil authorities (22:66-71, 23:1-5).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you respond to prophetic confrontation—with defensive hostility or humble repentance?
2. What does the religious leaders' reaction to Jesus's critique reveal about pride's response to being exposed?
3. In what ways might you be 'urging vehemently' against truth that threatens your self-image or systems?

Interlinear Text

λέγοντος	δὲ	αὐτὸν	ταῦτα	πρὸς	αὐτὸν	ἤρξαντο	οἱ	
as he said	And	him	these things	unto	him	began		G3588
G3004	G1161	G846	G5023	G4314	G846	G756		
γραμματεῖς	καὶ	οἱ	Φαρισαῖοι	δεινῶς	ἐνέχειν	καὶ		
the scribes	and	G3588	the Pharisees	him vehemently	to urge	and		
G1122	G2532		G5330	G1171	G1758	G2532		
ἀποστοματίζειν	αὐτὸν	περὶ	πλειόνων					
to provoke	him	of	many things					
G653	G846	G4012	G4119					