

Luke 12:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?

Analysis

Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right? (Τί δὲ καὶ ἑαυτῶν οὐ κρίνετε τὸ δίκαιον;)—Jesus appeals to innate moral capacity. The phrase *aph heautōn* (of yourselves, from within yourselves) indicates internal moral knowledge independent of external authority. *To dikaion* (what is right, the just thing) should be self-evident. Why don't they *krinō* (judge, discern) it?

This assumes humans possess God-given moral intuition—Paul's 'law written in their hearts' (Romans 2:15). Jesus implies his claims are self-evidently righteous; rejecting him requires suppressing internal witness. Their problem isn't lack of evidence but suppression of truth known innately. This echoes Romans 1:18-20: rejecting truth despite internal and external witness.

Historical Context

Jewish thought recognized both revealed law (Torah) and natural law accessible to Gentiles. Prophets appealed to innate moral sense when condemning injustice (Amos, Micah). Jesus's question suggests recognizing his messianic identity and righteous teaching shouldn't require additional signs—it should be self-evident to honest hearts seeking truth.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What moral truths do you suppress despite innate awareness of their validity?
2. How does self-interest or fear override your internal moral compass?
3. In what areas have you stopped trusting your God-given ability to discern right from wrong?

Interlinear Text

Τί	δὲ	καὶ	ἀφ'	ἐαυτῶν	οὐ	κρίνετε	τὸ	δίκαιον
and why	Yea	even	of	yourselves	not	judge ye	G3588	what is right
G5101	G1161	G2532	G575	G1438	G3756	G2919		G1342

Additional Cross-References

John 7:24 (Judgment): Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Deuteronomy 32:29 (Parallel theme): O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!