

Luke 13:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.

Analysis

The rejected continue their plea: 'Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.' This verse exposes the insufficiency of external religious association. The people claim physical proximity to Jesus—sharing meals and hearing His teaching. Yet proximity without transformation, hearing without heeding, association without commitment brings no salvation. Many first-century Jews saw Jesus, heard His teaching, even benefited from His miracles, yet never truly believed. The same is true today—attending church, hearing sermons, participating in religious activities provides no guarantee of salvation apart from genuine faith and repentance.

Historical Context

This warning had immediate relevance to Jesus' contemporaries who witnessed His ministry firsthand. Within decades, many who heard Jesus preach would face judgment at Jerusalem's destruction (AD 70). The principle extends to all who have access to gospel truth—greater privilege brings greater responsibility (Luke 12:48). Those raised in Christian homes, attending faithful churches, hearing sound doctrine face stricter judgment if they reject Christ despite these advantages. Familiarity with Jesus is not the same as faith in Jesus.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge the assumption that religious activity or Christian background guarantees salvation?
2. What is the difference between hearing Jesus' teaching and truly receiving it with faith?
3. How should churches guard against creating cultures where people assume salvation based on religious participation rather than genuine conversion?

Interlinear Text

τότε	ἄρξεσθε	λέγειν	Ἐφάγομεν	ἐνώπιόν	σου	καὶ
Then	shall ye begin	to say	We have eaten	presence	in thy	and
G5119	G756	G3004	G5315	G1799	G4675	G2532
ἐπίομεν	καὶ	ἐν	ταῖς	πλατεῖαις	ἡμῶν	ἐδίδαξας·
drunk	and	in	G3588	streets	our	thou hast taught
G4095	G2532	G1722	G4113	G2257	G1321	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 58:2 (Parallel theme): Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.

Titus 1:16 (Parallel theme): They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.