

Luke 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy.

Analysis

Luke notes: 'And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy.' The man's presence 'before him' (ἐμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ, emprosthen autou) suggests he was positioned where Jesus couldn't avoid seeing him. 'Dropsy' (ὑδρωπικός, hydrōpikos) refers to edema, abnormal fluid accumulation causing swelling. This painful condition was often associated with heart, liver, or kidney disease. The man's presence at a Pharisee's house was unusual—such gatherings typically excluded the sick and disabled. His strategic positioning suggests the Pharisees placed him there to test Jesus: would He heal on the Sabbath and thus violate their traditions?

Historical Context

Ancient medical understanding attributed dropsy to various causes, sometimes viewing it as divine judgment for sin. The condition's visible swelling made sufferers objects of public attention and speculation about their spiritual state. That this man was present at a Pharisee's meal indicates either he was placed there deliberately as a test, or Jesus' reputation for compassion attracted the sick wherever He went. The incident parallels other Sabbath healings (Luke 6:6-11, 13:10-17, John 5:1-18, 9:1-41) where religious leaders opposed Jesus' mercy ministry.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does the man's strategic positioning reveal about the Pharisees' hardness of heart?
2. How does Jesus' response to obvious entrapment model wisdom and courage?
3. In what ways might contemporary opponents of the gospel similarly manipulate situations to discredit Christian witness?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἰδού, ἄνθρωπός τις ἦν ὁ δρωπικός
And behold man a certain there was which had the dropsy
G2532 G2400 G444 G5100 G2258 G5203

ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ

before him
G1715 G846

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