

Luke 14:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they could not answer him again to these things.

Analysis

The outcome: 'And they could not answer him again to these things.' Their continued silence—'they could not answer' (οὐκ ἴσχυσαν ἀνταποκριθῆναι, ouk ischysan antapokrithēnai, they were not able to reply)—indicates defeat. Jesus' logic was irrefutable. They couldn't deny they'd rescue animals, so they couldn't logically condemn healing humans. Their silence wasn't agreement but stubborn refusal to acknowledge truth. Pride prevented repentance. This pattern repeats throughout Jesus' ministry—His wisdom silences opponents but doesn't convert them. Intellectual defeat doesn't guarantee spiritual transformation. Only Holy Spirit conviction produces genuine repentance.

Historical Context

This incident occurred during Jesus' journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-19:27), a period of intensifying opposition. Despite repeatedly silencing critics with unassailable arguments, Jesus faced growing hostility. Within months, these same religious leaders would engineer His crucifixion. The pattern teaches an important lesson: apologetics has its place, but rational argumentation alone doesn't save. Hearts must be changed, not merely minds informed. The gospel requires both clear reasoning (1 Peter 3:15) and spiritual illumination (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the Pharisees' inability to answer despite being intellectually defeated teach about the limits of apologetics?
2. How should Christians respond when opponents are silenced but remain unrepentant?
3. What is the relationship between intellectual argumentation and spiritual conversion?

Interlinear Text

καὶ οὐκ ἴσχυσαν ἀνταποκριθῆναι αὐτῷ πρὸς ταῦτα
And not they could again him to these things
G2532 G3756 G2480 G470 G846 G4314 G5023

Additional Cross-References

Luke 20:40 (Parallel theme): And after that they durst not ask him any question at all.

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