

Luke 17:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

Analysis

I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left (λέγω ὑμῖν, ταύτη τῇ νυκτὶ ἔσονται δύο ἐπὶ κλίνης μιᾶς, ὁ εἷς παραλημφθήσεται καὶ ὁ ἕτερος ἀφεθήσεται)—Jesus describes the Second Coming's sudden discrimination. En tautē tē nukti (in that night) emphasizes unexpectedness. Two in klinē (bed)—one paralēmphthēsetai (taken) and the other aphethēsetai (left). The passive verbs indicate divine agency—God makes the separation.

Context suggests 'taken' may mean taken in judgment (like Noah's flood taking the wicked), not rapture. The previous verses (vv.26-30) parallel Noah and Lot—in both cases, the wicked were 'taken' in judgment while the righteous were 'left' or delivered. Jesus emphasizes sudden separation based on internal spiritual state, not external circumstances.

Historical Context

The pairing of two in one bed reflects ancient sleeping arrangements—families often shared sleeping spaces. Jesus's point: physical proximity doesn't guarantee spiritual unity. Two people in identical external circumstances face opposite eternal destinies based on their response to Christ. The Second Coming will expose and finalize this division.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does this passage teach about the suddenness and finality of Christ's return—are you prepared?
2. How does knowing that 'two in one bed' face opposite judgments challenge cultural or nominal Christianity?
3. In what relationships are you closest to people who may face opposite eternal destinies—how does this affect your witness?

Interlinear Text

λέγω	ὁμῖν	ταύτη	τῇ	νυκτὶ	ἔσονται	δύο	ἐπὶ	κλίνης
I tell	you	G3778	G3588	night	there shall be	two	men in	bed
G3004	G5213			G3571	G2071	G1417	G1909	G2825
εἷς	ὁ	εἷς	παραληφθήσεται,	καὶ	ὁ	ἕτερος		
the one	G3588	the one	shall be taken	and	G3588	the other		
G1520		G1520	G3880	G2532		G2087		
ἀφεθήσεται·								
shall be left								
G863								

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 2:9 (Parallel theme): The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Matthew 24:25 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have told you before.

