

Luke 18:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

Analysis

And they understood none of these things (καὶ αὐτοὶ οὐδὲν τούτων συνῆκαν, kai autoi ouden toutōn synēkan)—Despite Jesus's clarity, the disciples remain utterly uncomprehending. Syniēmi (to understand, comprehend) is negated by ouden (nothing, not at all). This isn't intellectual confusion but theological blindness—their Messianic expectations of earthly kingdom and military victory render them unable to process suffering and death.

This saying was hid from them (ἦν τὸ ῥῆμα τοῦτο κεκρυμμένον ἀπ' αὐτῶν, ēn to rhēma touto kekrymmenon ap' autōn)—the perfect passive participle kekrymmenon (having been hidden) implies divine concealment. God temporarily veils truth the disciples aren't ready to receive (cf. Luke 24:16, where eyes are 'holden' before recognition). This parallels Israel's hardening in Isaiah 6:9-10—not permanent rejection but strategic delay until post-resurrection revelation illuminates all.

Historical Context

The disciples' incomprehension is historically credible—no first-century Jew expected a dying Messiah. Messianic hopes centered on conquest and restoration (Acts 1:6). Only after resurrection did the apostles reinterpret Scripture through the cross (Luke 24:25-27, 44-47), creating the hermeneutical revolution that birthed Christianity.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why does God sometimes conceal truth from us until we're spiritually prepared to receive it?
2. How do our preconceived expectations of God's work create blindness to His actual methods?
3. What teachings of Jesus have you initially misunderstood, only to grasp them later through experience or spiritual maturity?

Interlinear Text

καὶ αὐτῶν οὐδὲν τούτων συνῆκαν καὶ ἦν τὸ
And **them** **none** **of these things** **they understood** **And** **was** G3588
G2532 G846 G3762 G5130 G4920 G2532 G2258

ῥῆμα τοῦτο κεκρυμμένον ἀπ' αὐτῶν καὶ οὐκ
saying **this** **hid** **from** **them** **And** **neither**
G4487 G5124 G2928 G575 G846 G2532 G3756

ἐγίνωσκον τὰ λεγόμενα
knew they G3588 **the things which were spoken**
G1097 G3004

Additional Cross-References

Luke 9:45 (Parallel theme): But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.

Mark 9:32 (Parallel theme): But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

John 10:6 (Parallel theme): This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

John 12:16 (Parallel theme): These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

Luke 2:50 (Parallel theme): And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

Luke 24:25 (Parallel theme): Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

Luke 24:45 (Parallel theme): Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,