

Luke 19:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

Analysis

The whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen (ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν...αἰνεῖν τὸν θεὸν φωνῇ μεγάλῃ, hapan to plēthos tōn mathētōn...ainein ton theon phōnē megalē). The phrase whole multitude emphasizes unanimous worship—not just the Twelve, but all disciples present. Praise (αἰνέω, aineō) means to tell forth God's excellence; with a loud voice (φωνῇ μεγάλῃ, phōnē megalē) indicates unrestrained exuberance, likely singing the Hallel Psalms (113-118).

Luke uniquely specifies they praised God **for all the mighty works** (περὶ πασῶν ὧν εἶδον δυνάμεων, peri pasōn hōn eidon dynamēōn)—the healings, exorcisms, nature miracles, and especially Lazarus's resurrection. Their worship flows from witnessed evidence, not mere emotion. The descent of the Mount of Olives brought Jerusalem into view, triggering this crescendo of praise as Jesus appeared to claim His city.

Historical Context

The descent from the Mount of Olives provided a dramatic vantage point where pilgrims would catch their first view of Jerusalem's Temple gleaming in the sun. Jewish pilgrims traditionally sang the Hallel Psalms (including Psalm 118:25-26,

'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!') as they approached Jerusalem for Passover. The crowd's praise fulfilled these liturgical expectations while directing them explicitly at Jesus.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How would your worship deepen if it were rooted more in 'mighty works you have seen' rather than abstract theology?
2. What does the phrase 'whole multitude' teach about corporate worship—is your praise joining with or isolated from the church?
3. Why do you think the sight of Jerusalem triggered this explosion of praise from those who knew Jesus's predictions about the city?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγγίζοντος	δὲ	αὐτοῦ	ἤδη	πρὸς	τῇ	καταβάσει
And when he was come nigh	even	G846	now	at	G3588	the descent
G1448	G1161		G2235	G4314		G2600
τοῦ	Ὄρους	τῶν	Ἐλαιῶν	ἤρξαντο	ἅπαν	τὸ πλῆθος
G3588	of the mount	G3588	of Olives	began	the whole	G3588 multitude
	G3735		G1636	G756	G537	G4128
τῶν	μαθητῶν	χαίροντες	αἰνεῖν	τὸν	θεὸν	φωνῇ
G3588	of the disciples	to rejoice	and praise	G3588	God	voice
	G3101	G5463	G134		G2316	G5456
μεγάλη	περὶ	πασῶν	ᾧ	εἶδον	δυνάμεων	
with a loud	for	all	that	they had seen	the mighty works	
G3173	G4012	G3956	G3739	G1492	G1411	

Additional Cross-References

Mark 13:3 (Parallel theme): And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,

Mark 14:26 (Parallel theme): And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

Matthew 21:1 (Parallel theme): And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,