

Luke 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Analysis

Those who heard the shepherds 'wondered at those things which were told them.' The Greek 'ethaumasan' indicates amazement or marveling, but not necessarily saving faith. Wonder is appropriate initial response to Christ's birth but insufficient for salvation. The shepherds' testimony created curiosity and astonishment, preparing hearts but not guaranteeing conversion. This demonstrates that proclamation of truth doesn't automatically produce faith—God must grant understanding and belief (John 6:44). The hearers' amazement shows that the testimony was compelling and unusual, yet many who wondered at Jesus's birth would later reject Him. Hearing truth creates responsibility but not necessarily transformation.

Historical Context

Bethlehem's residents hearing shepherds report angelic announcements would naturally wonder at such claims. Yet most who heard this testimony didn't become Jesus's followers, showing that proximity to revelation doesn't guarantee faith. Wonder must progress to worship and obedience.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between wondering at Jesus and worshiping Him?
2. Why doesn't hearing testimony about Christ automatically produce saving faith?
3. How can initial amazement at Christ's birth develop into genuine faith?

Interlinear Text

καὶ πάντες τῶν ἀκούσαντες ἐθαύμασαν περὶ
And **all** **those things which** **they that heard** **it wondered** **at**
G2532 G3956 G3588 G191 G2296 G4012

τῶν λαληθέντων ὑπὸ τῶν ποιμένων
those things which **were told** **by** **those things which** **the shepherds**
G3588 G2980 G5259 G3588 G4166

πρὸς αὐτούς·
them G846
G4314

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:47 (Parallel theme): And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

Luke 4:36 (Parallel theme): And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

Luke 2:33 (Parallel theme): And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.