

Luke 20:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And after that they durst not ask him any question at all.

Analysis

And after that they durst not ask him any question at all (οὐκέτι γὰρ ἐτόλμων ἐπερωτᾶν αὐτὸν οὐδέν, ouketi gar etolmōn eperōtan auton ouden)—Tolmaō (to dare, have courage) in the imperfect tense shows they no longer possessed courage to challenge Jesus. Eperōtaō (to question, interrogate) suggests hostile examination, not sincere inquiry. Ouden (nothing, not anything) is emphatic: absolutely no more questions.

This marks the end of three challenge questions:

1. by what authority Jesus acted (20:1-8)
2. whether to pay Roman taxes (20:20-26)
3. the resurrection riddle (20:27-38).

Jesus masterfully answered all three, turning traps into teaching moments. His opponents are now intellectually defeated, leaving only violent options. Silencing opponents through superior wisdom fulfills Messianic expectation: 'The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him... the spirit of wisdom and understanding' (Isaiah 11:2).

Historical Context

Public debates were common in Jewish teaching culture, with honor won through rhetorical skill. Jesus's consistent victories humiliated the religious establishment, eroding their authority before the people. Unable to defeat Him in argument, they would resort to false accusations and illegal proceedings to eliminate Him.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's wisdom in controversy demonstrate the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy?
2. What does the shift from questioning to plotting violence reveal about hearts closed to truth?
3. When intellectual arguments fail to silence truth, what dangerous alternatives do opponents often pursue?

Interlinear Text

οὐκέτι δὲ ἐτόλμων ἐπερωτᾶν αὐτὸν οὐδέν

after that And they durst ask him any
G3765 G1161 G5111 G1905 G846 G3762

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 22:46 (Parallel theme): And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

Mark 12:34 (Parallel theme): And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.