

Luke 21:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him.

Analysis

And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him (καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ὄρθριζεν πρὸς αὐτὸν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ ἀκούειν αὐτοῦ, kai pas ho laos ōrthrizen pros auton en tō hierō akouein autou)—Pas ho laos (all the people) emphasizes widespread popular support. Ōrthrizō (to rise early, come at dawn) in imperfect tense shows they repeatedly came at first light, eager to secure position. The purpose infinitive akouein autou (to hear him) reveals hunger for Jesus's teaching.

This creates poignant irony: while religious leaders plot Jesus's death (22:2), common people flock to hear Him. Their eagerness—arriving at dawn, filling the temple courts—demonstrates authentic spiritual hunger that contrasts with official rejection. Yet this same crowd will be manipulated within days to cry 'Crucify him!' (23:21), showing fickleness of popular opinion and leaders' power to sway masses. Still, in this moment, popular support protects Jesus, delaying arrest until Passover night when crowds are absent.

Historical Context

Temple courts opened at dawn for morning sacrifices. People arriving 'early' sought prime listening position near Jesus. This scene fulfills Isaiah 50:4: 'The Lord GOD... wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.' Luke brackets Jesus's ministry with temple teaching: beginning at age twelve (2:46-47) and climaxing in final week's intensive instruction.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does the people's eagerness to hear Jesus teach about genuine spiritual hunger versus religious routine?
2. How can popular support for Jesus quickly turn to rejection, and what does this reveal about human nature?
3. What would it look like to approach God's Word with the dawn-rising eagerness these people showed?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	πᾶς	ὁ	λαὸς	ὥρθριζεν	πρὸς	αὐτοῦ	ἐν
And	all	G3588	the people	came early in the morning	to	him	in
G2532	G3956		G2992	G3719	G4314	G846	G1722
τῷ	ἱερῷ	ἀκούειν	αὐτοῦ				
G3588	the temple	for to hear	him				
	G2411	G191	G846				