

# Luke 22:67

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:

## Analysis

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**Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:** The Sanhedrin's question is direct: *ei sy ei ho Christos, eipon hēmin* (εἰ σὺ εἶ ὁ Χριστός, εἰπὸν ἡμῖν, 'if you are the Christ, tell us'). They demand confession to secure conviction—Jesus' own testimony will condemn Him. *Christos* (Χριστός, 'Christ, Messiah, Anointed One') was politically charged. Jesus' response exposes their duplicity: *ean hymīn eipō, ou mē pisteusēte* (ἐὰν ὑμῖν εἴπω, οὐ μὴ πιστεύσητε, 'if I tell you, you will never believe'). The double negative *ou mē* (οὐ μή) is emphatic—'certainly not, absolutely never.'

Jesus identifies the real issue: not lack of evidence but refusal to believe. He had claimed messiahship implicitly and explicitly throughout His ministry—His miracles, teaching, and fulfillment of prophecy testified clearly. Their question isn't seeking truth but seeking ammunition. Jesus' answer prophesies their unbelief—regardless of His response, they won't *pisteuō* (πιστεύω, 'believe, trust, commit to'). This verse fulfills John 5:39-40: 'Search the scriptures... ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.' The problem isn't insufficient evidence but hardened hearts.

## Historical Context

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The Sanhedrin needed Jesus to self-incriminate because their witnesses contradicted each other (Mark 14:56-59). Under Jewish law, conviction required consistent testimony from multiple witnesses. By demanding Jesus testify against

Himself, they violated the principle against self-incrimination. Yet Jesus grants their request (v. 69-70), knowing conviction serves God's purposes. His trial wasn't legal determination of guilt but predetermined condemnation. The chief priests sought Roman cooperation (Luke 23:2) to execute Jesus, requiring political charges (insurrection, treason) not merely religious ones (blasphemy).

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Jesus say 'you will not believe' rather than give a direct answer?
2. What does this exchange reveal about the difference between seeking truth and seeking ammunition?
3. How does hardness of heart prevent belief regardless of evidence?

## Interlinear Text

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Ei	σὺ	εἶ	ό	Χριστός	εἶπω	ἡμῖν	εἶπω	δὲ	αὐτοῖς
G1487	<b>thou</b>	<b>Art</b>	G3588	<b>the Christ</b>	<b>I tell</b>	<b>us</b>	<b>I tell</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>unto them</b>
	G4771	G1488		G5547	G2036	G2254	G2036	G1161	G846

Ἐὰν ὑμῖν εἶπω οὐ μὴ πιστεύσητε.  
If you I tell G3756 G3361 believe  
G1437 G5213 G2036 G4100

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