

Luke 22:68

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go.

Analysis

And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. Jesus continues exposing the Sanhedrin's bad faith: *ean de erōtēsō, ou mē apokrithēte* (ἐὰν δὲ ἔρωτήσω, οὐ μὴ ἀποκριθῆτε, 'and if I question, you will never answer'). During His ministry, Jesus asked penetrating questions they couldn't answer without self-condemnation (Luke 20:1-8, source of John's baptism; Luke 20:41-44, David's son or Lord?). They deflected rather than engage. The phrase *ē apolysēte* (ἢ ἀπολύσητε, 'or release') acknowledges this isn't trial but execution—even if He convinced them, they wouldn't *apolyō* (ἀπολύω, 'release, set free').

Jesus' words indict their judicial theater. Real trials seek truth through questioning from both sides. This 'trial' seeks predetermined outcome. Jesus exposes their method: they demand He answer their questions but refuse to answer His; they claim impartial justice but have already decided His fate. This fulfills Isaiah 53:8: 'He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living.' No genuine judgment occurred—only power plays masked as legal process.

Historical Context

Throughout His ministry, Jesus' questions exposed the leaders' hypocrisy and ignorance. When they asked 'By what authority?' Jesus responded with a question they couldn't answer (Luke 20:1-8). They feared the crowds and couldn't afford honest answers. Now in custody, Jesus still identifies their dishonesty. His prophetic insight penetrates their pretense. That He's correct—they neither

answer nor release Him—vindicates His assessment. This pattern continues: religious/political establishments claim impartiality while predetermining outcomes against truth-tellers.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why were the religious leaders unable to answer Jesus' questions during His ministry?
2. What does this verse teach about the difference between genuine truth-seeking and predetermined conclusions?
3. How do modern 'trials' in media or institutions sometimes mirror this judicial theater?

Interlinear Text

ἐὰν	δὲ	καὶ	ἐρωτήσω	οὐ	μὴ	ἀποκριθῆτε	μοι,	ἢ
if	And	I also	ask	G3756	G3361	answer	me	nor
G1437	G1161	G2532	G2065			G611	G3427	G2228

ἀπολύσητε

let me go

G630

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