

Luke 22:71

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth.

Analysis

And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth. The Sanhedrin achieves their goal: Jesus' self-testimony provides basis for conviction. The phrase *ti eti chreian echomen martyrias* (τί ἔτι χρείαν ἔχομεν μαρτυρίας, 'what further need do we have of testimony?') shows their satisfaction—no more witnesses needed. The declaration *autoi gar ēkousamen apo tou stomatos autou* (αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἤκούσαμεν ἀπὸ τοῦ στόματος αὐτοῦ, 'for we ourselves have heard from his own mouth') emphasizes they heard Jesus directly—*autoi* (αὐτοί, 'we ourselves') are eyewitnesses, *apo tou stomatos* (ἀπὸ τοῦ στόματος, 'from the mouth') means firsthand testimony.

Their logic is ironically correct but spiritually blind. They did hear from Jesus' own mouth—He confessed deity clearly. The tragedy is they heard truth and called it blasphemy. They had evidence demanded (v. 67) but rejected it. This fulfills Jesus' prophecy (v. 67): 'If I tell you, ye will not believe.' They heard God's voice and condemned it as blasphemy. This is sin's ultimate blindness: calling light darkness, truth lies, God's Son a blasphemer. They needed no further witnesses because they witnessed God incarnate and chose damnation.

Historical Context

This verse ends Luke's account of the Jewish trial. The Sanhedrin immediately led Jesus to Pilate (Luke 23:1) to secure Roman execution. Their charge shifted from religious (blasphemy) to political (claiming kingship, forbidding taxes—Luke 23:2),

showing cynical manipulation of legal systems. Historically, this trial violated multiple provisions of Jewish law: nighttime proceedings, feast-day trial, lack of defense witnesses, predetermined verdict, same-day sentencing in capital cases. The illegalities expose this as judicial murder, not justice. Yet God's sovereignty encompasses even injustice—this 'trial' fulfilled Scripture (Isaiah 53:8, Psalm 22:16).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What is the tragedy of hearing God's truth from Christ's own mouth yet calling it blasphemy?
2. How do people today 'hear from Jesus' (in Scripture, testimony) yet reject Him?
3. What does this trial reveal about religious systems that claim God's name while rejecting God's Son?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	εἶπον,	τί	ἔτι	χρεῖαν	ἔχομεν	μαρτυρίας
G3588	And	they said	What	any further	need we	G2192	witness
G1161		G2036	G5101	G2089	G5532		G3141
αὐτοῦ	γὰρ	ἠκούσαμεν	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	στόματος	αὐτοῦ	
his own	for	have heard	of	G3588	mouth	his own	
G846	G1063	G191	G575		G4750	G846	

