

Luke 24:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

Analysis

Shattered hopes: 'But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.' Cleopas expresses their disappointment: 'we trusted' (ἡμεῖς ἠλπίζομεν, *hēmeis ēlpizomen*, imperfect tense—we were hoping, but no longer) 'that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel' (ὅτι αὐτός ἐστιν ὁ μέλλων λυτροῦσθαι τὸν Ἰσραήλ, *hoti autos estin ho mellōn lytrousthai ton Israēl*). They expected political liberation from Rome; instead Jesus died. The phrase 'beside all this, to day is the third day' indicates they remembered Jesus' prediction but didn't understand it. Their hopes were crushed because they misunderstood Jesus' mission—He came to redeem from sin, not Rome.

Historical Context

The disciples' confession reveals how Jewish messianic expectations shaped and limited their understanding. They wanted national liberation; Jesus offered spiritual salvation. They expected political kingdom; Jesus brought spiritual kingdom. They hoped for immediate glory; Jesus came through suffering to glory. Their misunderstanding was comprehensive—even witnessing resurrection reports (vv. 22-24), they couldn't process them because their paradigm was wrong. Jesus' subsequent Scripture exposition (vv. 25-27) corrected their theology, showing that Christ must suffer before glory. This pattern repeats: humans want earthly

deliverance; God offers eternal salvation. We crave comfort; God promises glory through suffering. Our expectations must align with Scripture's revelation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How did political messianic expectations blind the disciples to Jesus' true mission?
2. What does their inability to process resurrection despite reports teach about paradigms shaping perception?
3. How might contemporary Christians similarly misunderstand Jesus' purposes by projecting their expectations onto Him?

Interlinear Text

ἡμεῖς	δὲ	ἠλπίζομεν	ὅτι	αὐτός	ἐστίν	ὁ	μέλλων
we	But	trusted	that	he	it had been	G3588	which should
G2249	G1161	G1679	G3754	G846	G2076		G3195
λυτροῦσθαι	τὸν	Ἰσραήλ·	ἀλλά	γε	σὺν	πᾶσιν	τούτοις
have redeemed	G3588	Israel	and	beside	G4862	all	this
G3084		G2474	G235	G1065		G3956	G5125
τρίτην	ταύτην	ἡμέραν	ἅγι	σήμερον,	ἀφ'	οὗ	ταῦτα
third	the	day	is	to day	since	G3739	these things
G5154	G5026	G2250	G71	G4594	G575		G5023
ἐγένετο							
were done							
G1096							

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:68 (Redemption): Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

Isaiah 59:20 (Redemption): And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

Luke 2:38 (Redemption): And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

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