

Luke 24:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

Analysis

Jesus rebukes the Emmaus disciples: 'O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.' The word 'fools' (Greek 'anoētoi,' ἀνόητοι) means without understanding, senseless. 'Slow of heart' (Greek 'bradeis tē kardia,' βραδεῖς τῇ καρδίᾳ) indicates sluggish, reluctant belief. Their problem wasn't intellectual but volitional—they could have believed but chose not to. The phrase 'all that the prophets have spoken' emphasizes comprehensive Old Testament testimony about Messiah's suffering before glory. Selective belief—accepting pleasant prophecies while rejecting difficult ones—reveals unbelief. True faith embraces all Scripture, not just preferred portions.

Historical Context

The Emmaus disciples were sad and disillusioned after crucifixion (vv. 17-21). They hoped Jesus would redeem Israel politically but didn't understand prophecies of suffering Messiah. Jesus rebuked their selective belief—they accepted Messiah's glory prophecies but missed or rejected suffering prophecies. The Old Testament clearly predicted both (Isaiah 53, Psalm 22, Zechariah 13:7). Jesus then expounded Moses and all prophets concerning Himself (v. 27), showing how Scripture pointed to His suffering and glory. This hermeneutical principle—Christ-centered Scripture reading—became foundational for early church. Modern believers also tend toward selective belief, accepting comfortable texts while avoiding challenging ones.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' rebuke for being 'slow of heart to believe' teach about the volitional nature of unbelief?
2. How does selective belief in Scripture—accepting pleasant prophecies while rejecting difficult ones—reveal underlying unbelief?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	αὐτούς	εἶπεν	πρὸς	αὐτούς	ὧ	άνόητοι	καὶ
Then	them	he said	unto	them	O	fools	Then
G2532	G846	G2036	G4314	G846	G5599	G453	G2532
βραδεῖς	τῇ	καρδίᾳ	τοῦ	πιστεύειν	ἐπὶ	πᾶσιν	οἷς
slow		of heart		to believe		all	that
G1021	G3588	G2588	G3588	G4100	G1909	G3956	G3739
ἐλάλησαν	οἱ	προφῆται·					
have spoken		the prophets					
G2980	G3588	G4396					

Additional Cross-References

Mark 9:19 (Faith): He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.

Mark 7:18 (Parallel theme): And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;

Mark 16:14 (Faith): Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

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