

Luke 24:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

Analysis

He made as though he would have gone further (προσεποιήσατο πορρώτερον πορεύεσθαι, prosepoiēsato porrōteron poreuesthai)—This phrase has sparked theological debate. The verb prosipoieō can mean 'to pretend' or 'to make as if,' raising questions about Jesus' sincerity. However, the better interpretation sees this as Jesus extending opportunity for hospitality without presumption. He wouldn't impose His presence—He waited for invitation.

This mirrors His consistent pattern: Jesus stands at the door and knocks (Revelation 3:20), but enters only when welcomed. The testing wasn't deception but gracious restraint, allowing the disciples freedom to choose. Their recognition came through hospitality and table fellowship—they **constrained him** (v. 29), using parabiazomai (to urge strongly), demonstrating genuine desire for His company before knowing His identity.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern hospitality codes obligated travelers to accept offered lodging, making Jesus' apparent intention to continue unusual. Emmaus was about seven miles from Jerusalem—a day's journey. As evening approached (toward the ninth hour, about 3 PM), finding safe lodging became urgent. The disciples' insistence reflects both cultural expectation and genuine warmth toward this compelling stranger.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' restraint in 'making as though he would have gone further' model respect for human agency in salvation?
2. What does this verse teach about Christ's presence being conditional on our invitation?
3. How might we 'constrain' Christ to abide with us through spiritual disciplines?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἤγγισαν	εἰς	τὴν	κώμην	οὗ	πορεύεσθαι	καὶ
And	they drew nigh	unto	G3588	the village	whither	he would have gone	And
G2532	G1448	G1519		G2968	G3757	G4198	G2532
αὐτὸς	προσεποιεῖτο	πορρωτέρω		πορεύεσθαι			
G846	he made as though	further		he would have gone			
	G4364	G4208		G4198			

Additional Cross-References

Mark 6:48 (Parallel theme): And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

Genesis 32:26 (Parallel theme): And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Genesis 42:7 (Creation): And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food.

Genesis 19:2 (Parallel theme): And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

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