

Luke 24:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

Analysis

Jesus eats: 'And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?' Despite evidence, 'they yet believed not for joy' (ἐτι δὲ ἀπιστούντων αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τῆς χαρᾶς, *eti de apistountōn autōn apo tēs charas*)—they couldn't believe because it seemed too good to be true. They 'wondered' (θαυμαζόντων, *thaumazontōn*, were amazed). To provide further proof, Jesus asks: 'Have ye here any meat?' (Ἐχετε τι βρώσιμον ἐνθάδε, *Echete ti brōsimon enthade*, do you have anything to eat here?). Ghosts and hallucinations don't eat. Jesus will consume food to prove His physical reality and conquer their unbelief. Sometimes the best evidence for resurrection is the most ordinary—eating fish.

Historical Context

The phrase 'believed not for joy' is psychologically profound—sometimes news is too wonderful to credit. They wanted to believe but feared disappointment. Jesus understood and provided additional evidence. His willingness to eat fish (v. 42-43) demonstrates resurrection body's continuity with pre-resurrection body. He doesn't merely appear to eat (docetism's claim) but actually digests food. This proves He has functioning physical body. The early church emphasized this against Gnostic denials of bodily resurrection. Paul insisted on physical resurrection (1 Corinthians 15), John emphasized Jesus' physicality (1 John 1:1), and creeds affirmed 'resurrection of the body.' Christianity is irreducibly physical—incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and final glorification all involve bodies.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does 'believed not for joy' reveal about how overwhelming good news can be difficult to accept?
2. Why does Jesus eat fish, and what does this prove about resurrection bodies?
3. How does Jesus' physical resurrection refute Gnostic spiritualizing of Christianity?

Interlinear Text

ἔτι	δὲ	ἀπιστούντων	αὐτοῖς	ἀπὸ	τῆς	χαρᾶς	καὶ
while they yet	And	believed not	unto them	for	^{G3588}	joy	and
G2089	G1161	G569	G846	G575		G5479	G2532
θαυμαζόντων	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	Ἔχετε	τι	βρώσιμον	ἐνθάδε	
wondered	he said	unto them	Have ye	any	meat	here	
G2296	G2036	G846	G2192	G5100	G1034	G1759	

Additional Cross-References

John 21:5 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.