

Luke 24:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

Analysis

Worship and return: 'And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.' After Jesus ascends (v. 51), 'they worshipped him' (προσκυνήσαντες αὐτὸν, proskynēsantes auton)—recognizing His deity. This is significant: Jews worshipped only God (Exodus 20:3-5, Deuteronomy 6:4), yet these monotheistic Jews worship Jesus. This confirms His divine nature. They 'returned to Jerusalem with great joy' (ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ μετὰ χαρᾶς μεγάλης, hypestrepsan eis Ierousalēm meta charas megalēs). Earlier departures from Jerusalem involved sadness (Emmaus disciples, v. 13-17); now they return joyfully. Resurrection and ascension transformed despair into joy. Jesus' physical absence doesn't diminish their joy—His spiritual presence and promised Spirit sustain them.

Historical Context

The disciples' worship of Jesus is one of many New Testament evidences of His deity. Throughout His ministry, Jesus accepted worship (Matthew 14:33, 28:9, 17, John 9:38, 20:28)—something no mere human or angel could do (Acts 10:25-26, Revelation 19:10, 22:8-9). Their worship confirms they understood Jesus as divine. Their 'great joy' despite Jesus' departure demonstrates mature faith—they don't need His physical presence to have joy because they understand His continuing spiritual presence and promised Spirit. This models Christian experience: though Jesus isn't physically visible, believers have joy through faith, Spirit-presence, and anticipation of His return. The Gospel concludes not with sadness at Jesus' absence but joy in His victory and ongoing presence.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the disciples' worship of Jesus reveal about His divine nature?
2. How does their joy despite Jesus' physical absence demonstrate mature faith?
3. What sustains Christian joy when Jesus isn't physically present?

Interlinear Text

καὶ αὐτὸν προσκυνήσαντες αὐτὸν ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς
And him worshipped him and returned to
G2532 G846 G4352 G846 G5290 G1519

Ἰερουσαλὴμ μετὰ χαρᾶς μεγάλης
Jerusalem with joy great
G2419 G3326 G5479 G3173

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 28:9 (Worship): And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Psalms 30:11 (Parallel theme): Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

John 16:22 (Parallel theme): And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Matthew 28:17 (Worship): And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

John 20:28 (Parallel theme): And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

John 14:28 (Parallel theme): Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

1 Peter 1:8 (Parallel theme): Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

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