

Luke 4:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

Analysis

Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. The solemn formula *amēn legō hymin* (ἀμήν λέγω ὑμῖν, truly I say to you) introduces authoritative pronouncement. Jesus states a universal principle: prophets face rejection among those who knew them before their calling. The verb *dektos* (δεκτός, accepted/welcome) indicates not merely tolerated but genuinely received with honor and belief.

This principle applied supremely to Jesus. Nazareth's rejection foreshadows Israel's rejection of Messiah. Familiarity blinds people to God's work in their midst. They judge by outward appearance (John 7:24) rather than recognizing divine authority. Jesus' own brothers didn't believe in Him until after the resurrection (John 7:5). The hometown rejection previews the ultimate rejection—"He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11).

Historical Context

Biblical history confirms this pattern. Joseph's brothers rejected him before God exalted him (Genesis 37). Moses was rejected by Israelites before becoming their deliverer (Exodus 2:14, Acts 7:25-29). David was despised by his brothers before his anointing (1 Samuel 16:11, 17:28). Jeremiah faced rejection in his hometown Anathoth (Jeremiah 11:21-23). This pattern demonstrates that God's calling contradicts human assessment. Those closest often resist God's elevation of the

familiar to prophetic office because it disrupts social hierarchies and exposes their own spiritual blindness.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why does familiarity so often breed contempt for God's messengers, and how can you guard against this tendency?
2. How does Jesus' rejection in Nazareth foreshadow Israel's rejection of Messiah and the gospel going to the Gentiles?
3. What does this principle teach about judging spiritual matters by outward appearance versus spiritual discernment?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	δέ	Άμην	λέγω	ὑμῖν	ὅτι	οὐδεὶς	προφήτης
he said	And	Verily	I say	unto you	G3754	No	prophet
G2036	G1161	G281	G3004	G5213		G3762	G4396

δεκτός	ἐστιν	ἐν	τῇ	πατρίδι	αὐτοῦ
accepted	is	in	G3588	country	G846
G1184	G2076	G1722		G3968	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:57 (Prophecy): And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

John 4:44 (Prophecy): For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.

