

Luke 4:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

Analysis

And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath. The Greek eplēsthēsan thymou (ἐπλήσθησαν θυμοῦ, were filled with rage) describes explosive anger, not mere annoyance. The verb pimplēmi (πίμπλημι, to fill) suggests complete saturation—they were consumed by rage. This sudden shift from admiring Jesus' "words of grace" (v. 22) to murderous fury reveals the depth of their offense.

Jesus' examples of God blessing Gentiles while judging Israel struck at the core of their ethnic pride and religious presumption. They assumed covenant status guaranteed God's favor regardless of faith or obedience. Jesus exposed this as false security—God honors faith wherever He finds it and judges unbelief even in covenant Israel. Their rage demonstrates that religious pride, when confronted, often produces violence rather than repentance.

Historical Context

First-century Judaism struggled with the tension between Israel's covenant election and God's universal sovereignty. Most Jews assumed Messiah would exalt Israel and judge Gentiles. Jesus' teaching inverted this expectation—Gentiles who believe receive blessing while unbelieving Israel faces judgment. This became the pattern in Acts: the gospel went "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16), but Jewish rejection often led to Gentile inclusion (Acts 13:46, 18:6, 28:28).

The Nazareth synagogue's violent rejection previewed Israel's rejection of Messiah.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the sudden shift from admiration to murderous rage reveal about superficial versus genuine faith?
2. How does religious pride (assuming God's favor based on heritage or status) blind people to the true gospel?
3. In what ways might you react defensively when Jesus challenges your assumptions about deserving God's blessings?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν πάντες θυμοῦ ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ
And were filled all they with wrath in the synagogue
G2532 G4130 G3956 G2372 G1722 G3588 G4864

ἀκούοντες ταῦτα
when they heard these things
G191 G5023

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