

Luke 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

Analysis

And they were filled with madness (ἐπλήσθησαν ἀνοίας, eplēsthēsan anoias)—anoia (ἀνοία) means senseless rage, irrational fury, mindlessness. Confronted with undeniable evidence of Jesus' divine power and compassion, they responded not with wonder but with insane hatred. They **communed one with another what they might do to Jesus** (διελάλουν πρὸς ἄλλήλους τί ἀν ποιήσαιεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ, dielāloun pros allēlous ti an poiēsaien tō Iēsou)—plotting his destruction even as he demonstrated life-giving power.

This fulfills Jesus' earlier question (v. 9)—while he saved life, they plotted to destroy it. Their madness reveals the ultimate danger of hardened religiosity: it can witness miracles yet remain unmoved, see God's glory yet seek to extinguish it. This same council would eventually crucify him.

Historical Context

The religious establishment's hostility to Jesus intensified with each Sabbath controversy. Earlier they criticized his disciples for plucking grain (Luke 6:1-5); now they plotted violence. This escalating opposition foreshadows the cross. Their madness (ἀνοία, anoia) contrasts with the Sabbath's purpose—rest, worship, and delight in God's goodness. Instead of rejoicing that a man was healed, they raged that their authority was challenged. This shows how institutions can prioritize self-preservation over truth and mercy.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How can religious commitment become so hardened that it responds to God's work with rage rather than worship?
2. What evidence of Jesus' power are you resisting because accepting it would require changing your life or theology?

Interlinear Text

αὐτοὶ δὲ ἐπλήσθησαν ἀνοίας καὶ διελάλουν
G846 And they were filled with madness and communed
G1161 G4130 G454 G2532 G1255

πρὸς ἄλληλους τί ἀν ποιήσειαν τῷ Ἰησοῦ
one with another G240 what G302 they might do G3588 to Jesus
G4314 G5101 G4160 G2424

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:33 (Parallel theme): When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

Ecclesiastes 9:3 (Parallel theme): This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

