

Luke 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.

Analysis

But he knew their thoughts (αὐτὸς δὲ Ἂδει τοὺς διαλογισμοὺς αὐτῶν, autos de ēdei tous dialogismous autōn)—Jesus possessed supernatural knowledge of their dialogismous (διαλογισμούς), their inner reasonings and hostile deliberations. This divine omniscience appears throughout Luke's Gospel (5:22, 9:47, 11:17). Jesus didn't wait for them to voice objections; he brought the conflict into the open: **Rise up, and stand forth in the midst** (Ἔγειρε καὶ στῆθι εἰς τὸ μέσον, Egeire kai stēthi eis to meson).

By placing the disabled man center stage, Jesus forced a public decision—will they prioritize human need or religious regulation? The man's obedience—**he arose and stood forth**—demonstrated faith before healing occurred. This public confrontation reveals Jesus' courage and his refusal to let evil hide in shadows.

Historical Context

Synagogue seating typically placed teachers and elders in positions of honor, with congregation seated around them. By calling the man to stand in the midst (εἰς τὸ μέσον, eis to meson—into the middle), Jesus made him the focal point, impossible to ignore. This forced the religious leaders to confront the reality of human suffering versus their theological abstractions. First-century honor-shame culture meant this public display heightened both the tension and the man's potential humiliation if Jesus didn't follow through.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' knowledge of our inner thoughts both convict and comfort us?
2. What does the disabled man's immediate obedience to stand publicly teach about faith that acts before seeing the miracle?

Interlinear Text

αὐτῶν δὲ ἤδει ὁ διαλογισμοὺς αὐτῶν καὶ εἶπεν
their And he knew which thoughts their and said
G846 G1161 G1492 G3588 G1261 G846 G2532 G2036

ὁ ἀνθρώπῳ ὁ ξηρὰν ἔχοντι ὁ χεῖρα Ἔγειρατ
which to the man which the withered had which hand Rise up
G3588 G444 G3588 G3584 G2192 G3588 G5495 G1453

καὶ ἔστη εἰς ὁ μέσον· ὁ δὲ ἀναστὰς
and and stood forth in which the midst which And he arose
G2532 G2476 G1519 G3588 G3319 G3588 G1161 G450

ἔστη
and stood forth
G2476

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Matthew 9:4 (Parallel theme): And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

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