

Luke 7:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Analysis

Jesus concludes: 'And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.' The Greek 'skandalisthē' (σκανδαλισθῆ, offended) means to stumble, take offense, fall away. The 'blessing' (Greek 'makarios,' μακάριος) comes to those who don't stumble over Jesus—who accept Him despite offense to human expectations or preferences. Jesus often offends—His claims, His associates, His ethics, His cross. Blessing comes to those who embrace Him anyway. Faith perseveres through offense; unbelief stumbles and falls away. This beatitude separates genuine disciples from those seeking a convenient, comfortable Christ.

Historical Context

This followed Jesus' answer to John the Baptist's question 'Art thou he that should come?' (v. 19-22). John may have expected Jesus to establish political kingdom and free prisoners (including John). Instead, Jesus healed sick and preached to poor while John remained imprisoned. Jesus' ministry didn't match expectations, creating potential offense. The beatitude warned John against stumbling over unmet expectations. Many did stumble—Galilean crowds turned away (John 6:66), His hometown tried to kill Him (Luke 4:29), religious leaders crucified Him. Those who persevered through offense received blessing. Modern believers also face offense—Christ's exclusivity, biblical ethics, suffering servants—and must choose faith over offense.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What aspects of Jesus and His message commonly offend people, and how should believers respond to such offense?
2. How does blessing come specifically to those who don't stumble over Jesus despite their unmet expectations or preferences?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	μακάριός	ἐστιν	ὅς	ἐὰν	μὴ	σκανδαλισθῇ	ἐν	ἐμοί
And	blessed	is	G3739	G1437	G3361	be offended	in	me
G2532	G3107	G2076				G4624	G1722	G1698

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 2:14 (Parallel theme): But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Matthew 11:6 (Blessing): And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Luke 2:34 (Blessing): And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;