

Luke 7:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts.

Analysis

Jesus continues: 'But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet.' John was indeed prophet but exceeded typical prophets. Prophets announced the Messiah; John introduced Him. The Greek 'perissoteron prophetou' (more than a prophet) elevates John's unique role. He bridges Old and New Covenants—last Old Testament prophet and first New Testament witness. Jesus later declares 'Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist' (Luke 7:28). Yet John's greatness lay not in personal virtue but in unique assignment. Reformed theology recognizes that God assigns roles sovereignly; faithfulness in assigned role brings commendation, not envy of others' assignments.

Historical Context

Prophets in Israel announced God's word, often confronting kings and calling for covenant renewal. Prophetic ministry was dangerous—Jeremiah imprisoned, Isaiah traditionally martyred, prophets killed by Jezebel (1 Kings 18:4). John stood in this tradition but with unprecedented privilege—preparing Messiah's immediate way. His baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:21-22) and testimony 'Behold the Lamb of God' (John 1:29) directly identified the Christ. For Luke's readers, Jesus's commendation of John validated Christian claims about Jesus—if John was genuine prophet (which even skeptics acknowledged), his testimony about Jesus carried weight. Modern

application includes honoring those who faithfully fulfill assigned roles without comparing or competing.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What made John 'more than a prophet,' and how did his unique role differ from earlier prophets?
2. How does Jesus's commendation of John's faithfulness in assigned role speak to our callings?
3. Why is it significant that even the greatest prophet points away from himself to Christ?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλὰ	τί	έξεληλύθατε	ἰδεῖν	ἄνθρωπον	ἐν	μαλακοῖς
But	what	went ye out	for to see	A man	in	soft
G235	G5101	G1831	G1492	G444	G1722	G3120
ἱματίοις	ἡμφιεσμένον	ἰδού,	οἱ	ἐν	ἱματισμῷ	ἐνδόξῳ
raiment	clothed	Behold	G3588	in	apparelled	gorgeously
G2440	G294	G2400	G1722	G2441	G1741	
καὶ	τρυφῆ	ὑπάρχοντες	ἐν	τοῖς	βασιλείοις	εἰσίν
and	delicately	live	in	G3588	kings' courts	are
G2532	G5172	G5225	G1722	G933	G1526	