

Luke 7:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But wisdom is justified of all her children.

Analysis

A Pharisee invites Jesus to dinner: 'And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him' (Greek 'ērota auton hina phagē met' autou'). Despite earlier opposition, this Pharisee extends hospitality. Motivations unclear—genuine curiosity, social obligation, or trap. Jesus accepts, demonstrating accessibility even to critics. His presence provides opportunity for teaching and witness. The subsequent account (Luke 7:36-50) shows Jesus using dinner setting for profound lesson about forgiveness and love. Reformed theology affirms that Christians should engage even hostile audiences when opportunity for witness exists. Paul's Mars Hill address (Acts 17:22-31) exemplifies this—respecting audience while proclaiming truth.

Historical Context

Pharisaic dinner invitations tested guests through careful observation of ritual washing, prayers, food selection. The coming narrative shows the Pharisee judging Jesus for allowing a sinful woman's touch. Ancient Near Eastern meals involved reclining on couches, feet extended away from table, making the woman's approach possible. Dinner conversations were semi-public—neighbors and students might observe. For Luke's readers, Jesus's willingness to dine with critics while maintaining truth demonstrated appropriate engagement strategy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's acceptance of the Pharisee's invitation model engagement with critics?
2. When should Christians accept invitations from hostile audiences, and when decline?
3. How can dinner table hospitality create opportunities for gospel witness?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐδικαιώθη	ἡ	σοφία	ἀπὸ	τῶν	τέκνων	αὐτῆς
But	is justified		wisdom	of		children	
G2532	G1344	G3588	G4678	G575	G3588	G5043	G846

πάντων

all
G3956

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 11:19 (Righteousness): The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

Hosea 14:9 (Righteousness): Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

Proverbs 17:16 (Parallel theme): Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?

