

Luke 9:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they did so, and made them all sit down.

Analysis

And they did so, and made them all sit down (καὶ ἐποίησαν οὕτως καὶ κατέκλιναν ἄπαντας, kai epoīēsan houtōs kai kateklinan hapantas)—The disciples obeyed completely. The verb kateklinan ("made recline") suggests the crowd reclined as at a formal meal, perhaps foreshadowing the messianic banquet. The word hapantas ("all, everyone") emphasizes totality—every single person was seated in organized groups.

This brief verse marks a transition between Jesus's command (v. 14) and the miracle itself (v. 16). The disciples' obedience, though the provision was not yet visible, demonstrates faith in action. They organized thousands of people into groups for a meal that didn't yet exist. This is obedience before understanding, trust before seeing—precisely the faith Jesus commends (John 20:29: "blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed"). The crowd's compliance also shows their expectation that Jesus would provide, based on His prior teaching and healing (v. 11). This sets the stage for a miracle that will reveal Jesus as the bread of life (John 6:35) and foreshadow the Eucharist.

Historical Context

The organized seating of thousands in the Galilean countryside would have been a striking sight. Mark 6:40 describes them arranged "in ranks" (πρασιαί, prasiai), literally "garden beds," suggesting orderly rows on the green grass. This organization served practical purposes (efficient distribution, accurate counting) and theological purposes (evoking Israel's wilderness wanderings when God

provided manna). The miracle occurs during Passover season (John 6:4), connecting to Israel's redemption from Egypt and anticipating Jesus as the Passover Lamb whose body would be broken for many.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does the disciples' obedience in organizing the crowd before seeing the provision teach about acting on faith before understanding God's plan?
2. How does the crowd's willingness to sit and wait demonstrate expectant faith in Jesus's ability to meet their needs?
3. In what ways does this orderly preparation for the miracle reflect God's character and challenge chaos in our approach to ministry?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐποίησαν οὕτως καὶ ἀνέκλιναν ἄπαντας
And they did so And made all
G2532 G4160 G3779 G2532 G347 G537

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