

Luke 9:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.

Analysis

And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him. The phrase *tē hexēs hēmera* (τῇ ἑξῆς ἡμέρᾳ, "the next day") marks the transition from mountaintop glory to valley ministry. The verb *katelthontōn autōn* (κατελθόντων αὐτῶν, "when they came down") parallels Moses descending Sinai to find Israel worshipping the golden calf (Exodus 32). Jesus descends from transfiguration glory to confront demonic bondage and disciples' faithlessness—the stark contrast between heaven's reality and earth's brokenness.

The phrase **much people met him** (*synēntēsen autō ochlos polys*, συνήντησεν αὐτῷ ὄχλος πολὺς) indicates a large crowd awaited Jesus. While the inner three witnessed glory, the other nine disciples had attempted and failed to exorcise a demon (v. 40). This juxtaposition is deliberate—spiritual mountaintops prepare for valley battles. The Transfiguration equipped Jesus for the cross and the disciples for future ministry. True spirituality always descends from contemplation to compassionate action.

Historical Context

The contrast between Peter, James, and John's mountaintop experience and the other disciples' valley failure illustrates a recurring biblical pattern—Moses on Sinai while Israel sinned below, Elijah on Horeb while Jezebel persecuted prophets, Jesus praying while disciples slept. Spiritual privilege brings

responsibility. The three who witnessed Christ's glory would face unique challenges—James martyred first (Acts 12:2), Peter crucified in Rome, John exiled to Patmos. The Transfiguration sustained them through these trials. For the early church facing persecution, this passage taught that glimpses of glory prepare believers for suffering service, not escape from earthly struggle.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the pattern of ascending the mountain for communion with God then descending to serve broken humanity shape Christian spirituality?
2. What does the contrast between the Transfiguration's glory and the valley's demonic oppression teach about the 'already but not yet' nature of the kingdom?
3. In what ways do spiritual mountaintop experiences equip us for valley ministry rather than excusing us from it?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγένετο	δὲ	ἐν	τῇ	ἐξῆς	ἡμέρα	κατελθόντων	
it came to pass	And	that on	G3588	the next	day	were come down	
G1096	G1161	G1722		G1836	G2250	G2718	
αὐτῷ	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	ὄρους	συνήντησεν	αὐτῷ	ὄχλος	πολύς
him	from	G3588	the hill	met	him	people	much
G846	G575		G3735	G4876	G846	G3793	G4183

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