

Luke 9:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

Analysis

And they did not receive him (οὐκ ἐδέξαντο αὐτόν, *ouk edexanto auton*)—the Samaritans actively refused hospitality. The verb *dechomai* means to welcome or accept, often with warmth; its negation here signals deliberate rejection. **Because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem** (τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ἦν πορευόμενον εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ, *to prosōpon autou ēn poreuomenon eis Hierousalēm*)—literally, 'his face was set toward Jerusalem.'

The Samaritans rejected Jesus not for who He was but where He was going. Jerusalem represented everything they opposed—the rival temple, Jewish religious hegemony, centuries of mutual contempt. Jesus's resolute determination to worship in Jerusalem (not Gerizim) made Him an enemy. The irony is tragic: they reject the Messiah over geography. This previews how religious tribalism blinds people to Christ's true identity. The woman at the well (John 4) received Jesus; this village rejected Him. Same Savior, same ethnicity, different responses—proving that receptivity to Christ transcends cultural identity.

Historical Context

The Samaritan temple on Mount Gerizim had been destroyed by Jewish forces in 128 BC under John Hyrcanus, intensifying centuries of hatred. Samaritans believed Jacob's well and Mount Gerizim were the legitimate worship sites, not Jerusalem. Jesus's pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Passover would have been viewed

as legitimizing the Jewish temple system they rejected, making Him complicit in their oppression despite His willingness to minister to them.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. When have you rejected truth or ministry because it came through channels, institutions, or people associated with your theological or cultural opponents?
2. How does the Samaritans' rejection of Jesus over destination rather than identity warn against allowing secondary issues (worship style, denominational affiliation, political alignment) to blind you to Christ Himself?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐκ	ἐδέξαντο	αὐτοῦ	ὅτι	τὸ	πρόσωπον	αὐτοῦ
And	not	receive	him	because	G3588	face	him
G2532	G3756	G1209	G846	G3754		G4383	G846
ἦν	πορευόμενον	εἰς	Ἱερουσαλήμ				
was	as though he would go	to	Jerusalem				
G2258	G4198	G1519	G2419				

Additional Cross-References

John 4:9 (Parallel theme): Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.