

Mark 16:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Analysis

After resurrection, Jesus 'appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen' (ἐφανερώθη τοῖς ἔνδεκα ἀνακειμένοις, καὶ ὧνείδισεν τὴν ἀπιστίαν αὐτῶν καὶ σκληροκαρδίαν, ὅτι τοῖς θεασαμένοις αὐτὸν ἐγνερμένον οὐκ ἐπίστευσαν). Jesus rebuked the eleven (Judas dead, replaced later by Matthias) for 'unbelief and hardness of heart' (apistian... sklērokardian, ἀπιστίαν... σκληροκαρδίαν). Despite multiple witnesses to resurrection, they disbelieved. 'Hardness of heart' echoes Jesus' earlier use (Mark 10:5) describing stubborn resistance to truth. Even disciples struggled with resurrection belief—this wasn't gullible acceptance of myth but reluctant conviction overcome by evidence. Thomas famously doubted until seeing Jesus (John 20:24-29). Jesus' rebuke shows that unbelief, even among disciples, deserves correction. Yet He didn't abandon them but commissioned them (vv. 15-18). Grace persists despite weakness.

Historical Context

The disciples' initial unbelief despite women's testimony (Mark 16:10-11) and other witnesses shows resurrection wasn't expected or easily believed. First-century Jews believed in general resurrection at history's end (Daniel 12:2;

Martha's confession, John 11:24) but not individual resurrection in history's middle. Greek philosophy rejected bodily resurrection as crude (Acts 17:32). Jesus appeared multiple times—to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18), other women (Matthew 28:9-10), two disciples (Luke 24:13-35), Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5), the eleven (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23), Thomas (John 20:24-29), seven at Galilee (John 21), 500 at once (1 Corinthians 15:6), James (1 Corinthians 15:7), and at ascension (Acts 1:3-9). This multiple attestation convinced initially skeptical disciples, whose transformed lives (martyrdom for resurrection proclamation) authenticates their testimony.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the disciples' initial unbelief despite multiple witnesses strengthen rather than weaken resurrection credibility?
2. What does Jesus' rebuke followed by commissioning teach about how He relates to weak, doubting disciples?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγένετο δέ τοις ἀνακειμένοις αὐτὸν τοῖς ἔνδεκα ἐφανερώθη
Afterward sat at meat as they unto the eleven he appeared
G5305 G345 G846 G3588 G1733 G5319

καὶ ὠνείδισεν τὴν ἀπιστίαν αὐτὸν καὶ σκληροκαρδίαν
and upbraided unbelief as they and hardness of heart
G2532 G3679 G570 G846 G2532 G4641

ὅτι τοῖς θεασαμένοις αὐτὸν ἐγηγερμένον οὐκ
because them which had seen as they after he was risen not
G3754 G3588 G2300 G846 G1453 G3756

ἐπίστευσαν
they believed
G4100

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:5 (Parallel theme): And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

Revelation 3:19 (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

John 20:27 (Faith): Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

Matthew 11:20 (Parallel theme): Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

Mark 7:18 (Parallel theme): And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;

Matthew 17:20 (Faith): And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto

this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Luke 24:25 (Faith): Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

Numbers 14:11 (Faith): And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

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