

Mark 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

Analysis

The scribes' internal reasoning (διαλογιζόμενοι ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις, *dialogizomenoi en tais kardiais*, 'reasoning in their hearts') reveals hardened unbelief masquerading as theological discernment. Mark emphasizes their silent objection—they didn't verbally challenge Jesus but harbored hostile thoughts. This interior resistance demonstrates that sin's root is in the heart (Mark 7:21-23). The scribes, religious experts charged with interpreting Torah, immediately questioned Jesus' authority rather than marveling at His compassion or power. Their presence in this Capernaum gathering suggests official scrutiny of Jesus' growing ministry. Reformed theology notes that unconverted religious professionals can be Christianity's fiercest opponents—their theological knowledge, divorced from humble faith, becomes a weapon against Christ.

Historical Context

Scribes (γραμματεῖς, *grammateis*) were Torah scholars who copied, preserved, and interpreted Scripture, holding significant religious authority in first-century Judaism. They served as teachers, lawyers, and religious judges. Most scribes affiliated with the Pharisaic party. Their theological training made them arbiters of orthodoxy, which they jealously guarded. By Mark 2, scribes had begun monitoring Jesus' ministry from headquarters in Jerusalem, representing institutional opposition that would culminate in His crucifixion.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can theological knowledge become a barrier to faith rather than a pathway to it, and what heart posture prevents this distortion?
2. In what ways do you silently resist Jesus' authority while maintaining outward religious respectability?
3. How does this passage challenge you to examine your heart's true response to Christ's claims and authority?

Interlinear Text

ἦσαν	δέ	τινες	τῶν	γραμματέων	ἐκεῖ	καθήμενοι	καὶ
there were	But	certain	G3588	of the scribes	there	sitting	and
G2258	G1161	G5100		G1122	G1563	G2521	G2532
διαλογιζόμενοι	ἐν	ταῖς	καρδίαις	αὐτῶν			
reasoning	in	G3588	hearts	G846			
G1260	G1722		G2588				

Additional Cross-References

Mark 8:17 (Parallel theme): And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened?