

Mark 3:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Analysis

Jesus extends principle from kingdom to household: 'if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.' The move from macro to micro personalizes the argument. First-century listeners understood family unity determined survival and prosperity. Internal strife destroyed families. The principle remains universal—whether kingdom, household, or satanic realm, internal division ensures collapse. Jesus' argument is airtight: Satan wouldn't sabotage his operation. Therefore, Jesus' power must come from God.

Historical Context

Ancient households (οἶκος) encompassed extended family, servants, dependents—economic and social units requiring unity. Inheritance disputes and family feuds regularly destroyed households. Roman law recognized paterfamilias whose authority maintained order. The principle applies throughout Scripture—Israel's kingdom divided led to both's downfall; apostolic warnings against church division (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:3-4) reflect this concern.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this principle apply to your family, church, and community?
2. What role do you play in fostering unity or contributing to division?
3. How can you pursue biblical unity while maintaining doctrinal faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐὰν	οἰκία	ἐφ'	ἐαυτὴν	μερισθῇ	οὐ	δύναται
And	if	a house	against	itself	be divided	cannot	G1410
G2532	G1437	G3614	G1909	G1438	G3307	G3756	
σταθῆναι	ἡ	οἰκία	ἐκείνη				
stand		a house	that				
G2476	G3588	G3614	G1565				

Additional Cross-References

James 3:16 (Parallel theme): For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

Psalms 133:1 (Parallel theme): Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Genesis 37:4 (Parallel theme): And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Galatians 5:15 (Parallel theme): But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.