

Matthew 10:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Analysis

Jesus continues: 'It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?' (ἀρκετον τω μαθητη ινα γενηται ως ο διδασκαλος αυτου και ο δουλος ως ο κυριος αυτου ει τον οικοδεσποτην Βεελζεβουλ επεκαλεσαν ποσω μαλλον τους οικιακους αυτου). 'Enough' (ἀρκετον) means sufficient—being like the master is adequate goal. Disciples needn't exceed Jesus; conformity to Him suffices. Then Jesus cites specific slander: enemies called Him 'Beelzebub' (Βεελζεβουλ, 'lord of the flies,' Satan). If they slandered the master as demon-possessed, 'how much more' (ποσω μαλλον) His 'household' (οικιακους)? If Jesus faced such accusations, His followers will too. This prepares disciples for slander, misrepresentation, and demonization.

Historical Context

Beelzebub (also Baalzebub) derives from Philistine god Baal-zebub (2 Kings 1:2), meaning 'lord of the flies.' Jews used it contemptuously for Satan. Religious leaders' accusation that Jesus cast out demons by Beelzebub (Matthew 9:34, 12:24) was blasphemous slander: attributing the Holy Spirit's work to Satan. Early Christians faced similar accusations: atheism (denying pagan gods), cannibalism (misunderstanding communion), immorality (secret meetings). Roman and Jewish

sources slandered Christians grotesquely. Jesus' prediction prepared believers: expect slander; it confirms identification with Christ.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How should Christians respond to slander and misrepresentation?
2. What does this passage teach about the cost of identification with Christ?
3. How can we maintain witness integrity when falsely accused?

Interlinear Text

ἀρκετὸν τῷ μαθητῇ ἵνα γένηται ὡς ὁ διδάσκαλος
It is enough for the disciple that he be as master
G713 G3588 G3101 G2443 G1096 G5613 G3588 G1320

αὐτοῦ καὶ ὁ δοῦλος ὡς ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ εἰ τὸν
his and the servant as lord his If G3588 G2532 G1401 G5613 G2962 G846 G1487 G3588

οἰκοδεσπότην Βεελζεβοὺλ ἐκάλεσαν, πόσῳ μᾶλλον
the master of the house Beelzebub they have called how much more
G3617 G954 G2564 G4214 G3123

τοὺς οἰκιακοὺς αὐτοῦ
G3588 household his
G3615 G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 9:34 (Parallel theme): But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.

Matthew 12:24 (Parallel theme): But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

John 7:20 (Parallel theme): The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

Luke 11:15 (Parallel theme): But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.

Mark 3:22 (Parallel theme): And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

John 8:48 (Parallel theme): Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

John 8:52 (Parallel theme): Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

John 10:20 (Parallel theme): And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?