

Matthew 13:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things?
They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

Analysis

Have ye understood all these things? (Συνήκατε ταῦτα πάντα;)—The verb συνίημι (syniēmi) means 'to bring together, to comprehend,' implying more than intellectual assent—it suggests spiritual insight. 'All these things' refers to the seven parables of Matthew 13: sower (vv. 3-9), wheat and tares (24-30), mustard seed (31-32), leaven (33), hidden treasure (44), pearl of great price (45-46), and dragnet (47-50). Jesus's question tests whether the disciples grasped the mystery of the kingdom (v. 11) given exclusively to them.

They say unto him, Yea, Lord (λέγουσιν αὐτῷ, Ναί)—Their affirmative response marks them as insiders who receive revelation (13:11, 16). The simplicity of 'Yea' (Ναί) contrasts with the parables' complexity, but Christ accepts their confession. This understanding distinguishes disciples from the crowds whose hearing produces no fruit (13:13-15). Jesus then commissions them as scribes trained for the kingdom (v. 52).

Historical Context

This interaction likely occurred privately after Jesus dismissed the crowds (13:36). Matthew presents Jesus's teaching ministry in three phases: public parables to crowds (13:1-35), private explanations to disciples (13:36-50), and this assessment of their understanding (vv. 51-52). Rabbinic tradition emphasized the master's responsibility to ensure students comprehended teaching, making Jesus's question culturally appropriate.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Do you possess mere intellectual understanding of biblical truth or Spirit-given spiritual comprehension (1 Corinthians 2:14)?
2. How does Jesus's question challenge modern assumptions that understanding Scripture is optional for discipleship?

Interlinear Text

λέγουσιν	αὐτῷ	ό	Ἰησοῦς,	Συνήκατε	ταῦτα	πάντα
They say	unto him	G3588	Jesus	Have ye understood	these	all
G3004	G846		G2424	G4920	G5023	G3956

λέγουσιν	αὐτῷ	Ναί,	κύριε
They say	unto him	Yea	Lord
G3004	G846	G3483	G2962

Additional Cross-References

Mark 4:34 (Parallel theme): But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

Matthew 13:19 (Parallel theme): When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Matthew 13:11 (Parallel theme): He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

