

Matthew 16:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

Analysis

They reasoned among themselves (διελογίζοντο ἐν ἑαυτοῖς)—dialogizomai means 'to debate, consider, calculate.' The disciples engaged in faithless calculation, missing Jesus's point entirely. Their whispered discussion reveals hearts focused on logistics rather than listening to their Master.

Because we have taken no bread—they interpreted Jesus's warning about 'leaven' (v. 6) as criticism for their forgetfulness, demonstrating how anxiety produces misinterpretation. When we're preoccupied with our failures and needs, we mishear God's actual message. This echoes Israel in the wilderness, constantly doubting provision despite repeated manna.

Historical Context

Bread was the staple of first-century Palestinian diet—'daily bread' (Matthew 6:11) was literal survival. Going without bread was genuinely concerning, making their worry understandable yet faithless given recent miracles. Jewish discussion culture valued debate, but here it reveals unbelief.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. When has anxious 'reasoning among yourselves' caused you to completely misunderstand what God was saying?
2. How does fixation on what you lack prevent you from hearing spiritual truth?
3. What discussions reveal faithless calculation rather than prayerful dependence?

Interlinear Text

οἱ δὲ διελογίζοντο ἐν ἑαυτοῖς λέγοντες ὅτι
G3588 And they reasoned among themselves saying It is because
G1161 G1260 G1722 G1438 G3004 G3754

Ἄρτους οὐκ ἔλαβομεν
bread no we have taken
G740 G3756 G2983

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org