

Matthew 26:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

Analysis

And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? (καὶ ἀναστὰς ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς εἶπεν αὐτῷ, Οὐδὲν ἀποκρίνη; τί οὗτοί σου καταμαρτυροῦσιν;)—The participle ἀνίστημι (anistēmi, 'to stand up, to rise') shows the high priest rising, emphasizing the moment's gravity. The double question presses Jesus: Οὐδὲν ἀποκρίνη; ('You answer nothing?') and τί οὗτοί σου καταμαρτυροῦσιν; ('What are these testifying against you?'). The verb καταμαρτυρέω (katamartureō, 'to testify against, to witness against') shows accusatory testimony. Caiaphas expected self-defense, justification, explanation—anything to provide grounds for condemnation.

Jesus's silence fulfilled Isaiah 53:7: 'As a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.' He refused to dignify false charges with response. Silence demonstrated innocence—guilty defendants frantically defend themselves; Jesus rested in the Father's vindication. His silence also modeled non-retaliation (1 Peter 2:23): 'When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly.' The silent Lamb prepared for slaughter.

Historical Context

Defendants in ancient trials typically defended themselves vigorously—silence implied guilt or contempt. Caiaphas's frustration shows Jesus's silence thwarted his plans. Without self-incriminating testimony, conviction was difficult. This

explains Caiaphas's next move (v. 63)—placing Jesus under oath, forcing response. Jewish law allowed judges to demand sworn testimony. Caiaphas's question 'What are these testifying against you?' shows even he recognized the witnesses' testimony was flimsy—he needed Jesus's own words for condemnation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's silence before false accusation model trust in God's vindication rather than frantic self-defense?
2. When should you remain silent rather than answering critics, trusting God to vindicate (Psalm 37:5-6)?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀναστὰς	ό	ἀρχιερεὺς	εἶπεν	αὐτῷ	Οὐδὲν
And	arose		the high priest	and said	unto him	nothing
G2532	G450		G749	G2036	G846	G3762
ἀποκρίνη	τί	οὗτοί	σου	καταμαρτυροῦσιν		
Answerest thou	what	is it which these	thee	witness against		
G611	G5101	G3778	G4675		G2649	

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:60 (Witness): And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

Luke 23:9 (Parallel theme): Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

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