

Matthew 27:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

Analysis

Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? (οὐκ ἀκούεις πόσα σου καταμαρτυροῦσιν;)—Pilate's astonishment at Jesus's silence shows he expected defensio. The Greek katamartyreo (testify against) indicates formal witness testimony, multiple accusations demanding response.

Yet Jesus needed no defense. He came precisely to die (Mark 10:45). Every human court is subordinate to God's eternal court, where Christ now sits as Judge (Acts 17:31). The accused would become the Judge; Pilate would face Him.

Historical Context

Roman trials required witnesses, though standards were lower for non-citizens. A governor's cognitio extra ordinem (extraordinary investigation) gave Pilate discretion to evaluate testimony and render verdict without jury constraints.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that Jesus will one day judge all humanity (including Pilate) change your perspective on current injustices?
2. What would it look like to have Jesus's confidence in God's plan when facing overwhelming opposition?

Interlinear Text

τότε	λέγει	αὐτῷ	ὁ	Πιλᾶτος	Οὐκ	ἀκούεις
Then	said	unto him	G3588	Pilate	not	Hearest thou
G5119	G3004	G846		G4091	G3756	G191

πόσα	σου	καταμαρτυροῦσιν
how many things	thee	they witness against
G4214	G4675	G2649

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:62 (Witness): And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?