

Unveiling the In-Depth Meaning of the At Word in the Gospel of Luke: A Comprehensive Analysis

The Gospel of Luke, one of the four canonical gospels in the New Testament, utilizes the preposition "at" with a distinctive frequency and depth of meaning. Delving into the usage of this seemingly simple word reveals a nuanced understanding of the relationship between Jesus' words, deeds, and the people he encountered. This article delves into the multifaceted significance of "at" in Luke, shedding light on its theological, historical, and literary implications.

Jesus' Presence and Authority

One prominent use of "at" in Luke emphasizes Jesus' physical presence and authority. For instance, when Jesus heals the centurion's servant, Luke records: "And he sent a centurion to him, saying, 'Lord, my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible pain.' And Jesus said to him, 'I will come and heal him.'" (Luke 7:2-3). The preposition "at" indicates the physical proximity of the servant to his home, highlighting the immediate need for healing. By declaring, "I will come," Jesus asserts his authority and power to heal, even from a distance.



The AT According to LK: an Appalachian Trail journal

by Jay Dawes

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Divine Encounters and Human Response

"At" also signifies the occurrence of divine encounters that evoke diverse human responses. When Jesus enters the synagogue in Nazareth, his hometown, Luke writes: "And he stood up to read; and there was delivered to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written..." (Luke 4:16-17). The "place" here refers to a specific passage in Isaiah, which Jesus reads aloud. The people "were all looking at him" (Luke 4:20), their gazes fixed on Jesus, anticipating his interpretation. Luke's use of "at" captures the moment of divine revelation and the varying reactions of the audience, from astonishment to disbelief.

Discipleship, Mission, and the Kingdom of God

The preposition "at" further reveals the nature of discipleship and the mission entrusted to Jesus' followers. When Jesus calls his first disciples, Luke describes the scene: "And he went up into the mountain, and there he sat down. And his disciples came to him" (Luke 6:20). The "mountain" symbolizes a place of spiritual encounter and instruction, where Jesus teaches his disciples the Beatitudes and other foundational principles. The disciples "came to him," indicating their active choice to follow Jesus and embrace his teachings.

Luke also employs "at" to depict the scope of the disciples' mission. Jesus sends them out "two by two" (Luke 10:1), instructing them to proclaim the kingdom of God and heal the sick. The "two by two" arrangement underscores the importance of partnership and mutual support in spreading the gospel.

The preposition "at" in the Gospel of Luke serves as a versatile tool, conveying a wide range of meanings that illuminate Jesus' ministry and its impact. It signifies his physical presence and authority, marks divine encounters and human responses, and outlines the nature of discipleship and the mission of the kingdom of God. By carefully examining the usage of "at," we gain a deeper understanding of Luke's theological perspective and the transformative message of the gospel.



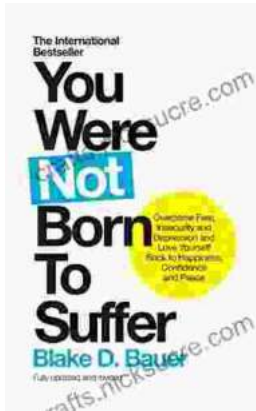
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