

2 Corinthians 11:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers,
in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in
perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the
sea, in perils among false brethren;

Analysis

In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren. Eight categories of kindynois (κινδύνους, 'dangers/perils') cascade in rapid succession, creating a comprehensive catalog of threats Paul faced. The anaphoric repetition kindynois... kindynois... kindynois (eight times) hammers home the relentless nature of apostolic hazards.

Journeyings often (hodoiporiais pollakis, ὁδοιποριαῖς πολλάκις)—constant travel on foot through dangerous terrain. **Perils of waters**—flooded rivers without bridges. **Perils of robbers** (lēstōn, ληστῶν)—bandits infesting trade routes. **By mine own countrymen... by the heathen**—Jews and Gentiles both threatened him. **In the city... in the wilderness**—urban mobs and rural isolation both dangerous. **In the sea**—echoing the shipwrecks. **Among false brethren** (en pseudadelphois, ἐν ψευδαδέλφοις)—the worst danger, betrayal by supposed Christians.

The final danger is most painful—not external enemies but internal traitors. Pseudadelphoi (ψευδαδέλφοις, 'false brothers') likely refers to Judaizers and false teachers who infiltrated churches to undermine Paul's gospel (Gal 2:4). Physical

dangers Paul could endure; spiritual subversion by counterfeit believers cut deeper.

Historical Context

Ancient travel was extremely hazardous. Roman roads improved safety but robbers still plagued routes. Rivers lacked bridges, requiring dangerous fording. Cities could turn into riot scenes (Acts 17:5; 19:23-41). Wilderness travel exposed travelers to animals, weather, and bandits. Sea travel risked storms and shipwreck. Paul faced all these plus persecution from both Jews and Gentiles.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's eight-fold catalog of dangers reveal that gospel ministry involves comprehensive risk, not selective courage in comfortable areas?
2. Why might 'perils among false brethren' be listed last—what makes betrayal by professing Christians especially dangerous?
3. What risks are we unwilling to take for gospel advance that Paul routinely endured as normal apostolic life?

Interlinear Text

ὁδοιπορίαις	πολλάκις	κινδύνοις	ποταμῶν	κινδύνοις		
In journeyings	often	in perils	of waters	in perils		
G3597	G4178	G2794	G4215	G2794		
ληστῶν	κινδύνοις	ἐξ	γένους	κινδύνοις	ἐξ	
of robbers	in perils	by	mine own countrymen	in perils	by	
G3027	G2794	G1537	G1085	G2794	G1537	
ἐθνῶν	κινδύνοις	ἐν	πόλει	κινδύνοις	ἐν	ἐρημίᾳ
the heathen	in perils	among	the city	in perils	among	the wilderness
G1484	G2794	G1722	G4172	G2794	G1722	G2047
κινδύνοις	ἐν	θαλάσση	κινδύνοις	ἐν	ψευδαδέλφοις	
in perils	among	the sea	in perils	among	false brethren	
G2794	G1722	G2281	G2794	G1722	G5569	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 14:5 (Parallel theme): And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them,

Acts 17:5 (Parallel theme): But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

Acts 20:19 (Parallel theme): Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

Acts 25:3 (Parallel theme): And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him.

Acts 13:50 (Parallel theme): But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

