

Acts 11:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

Analysis

Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: The Antioch church's generous response demonstrates practical Christian love transcending ethnic divisions—Gentile believers helping Jewish Christians.

Historical Context

According to ability indicates proportional giving—wealthier gave more, poorer gave less, all contributed. Determined shows deliberate decision, not impulsive emotion. Relief for Judean brethren reversed historical pattern—typically Jerusalem helped diaspora communities. Around 45-46 CE, this Gentile-to-Jewish charity demonstrated gospel's power to overcome ethnic animosity, providing practical proof of Christian unity across traditional divisions.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does proportional giving reflect biblical stewardship principles?
2. What does cross-ethnic charity demonstrate about gospel's reconciling power?
3. In what ways should prophecy prompt practical preparation and response?
4. How does helping former opponents demonstrate genuine conversion?
5. What role does generous giving play in expressing Christian unity?

Interlinear Text

τῶν δὲ μαθητῶν καθὼς ηὐπορεῖτο τις ὥρισαν
G3588 Then the disciples according to his ability G5100 determined
G1161 G3101 G2531 G2141 G3724

ἐκαστος αὐτῶν εἰς διακονίαν πέμψαι τοῖς κατοικοῦσιν
every man relief G1248 to send G3588 which dwelt
G1538 G846 G1519 G3992 G2730

ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ἀδελφοῖς.
in G3588 Judaea unto the brethren
G1722 G2449 G80

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 2:10 (Parallel theme): Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

Acts 11:26 (Parallel theme): And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Acts 4:34 (Parallel theme): Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

Acts 11:1 (Parallel theme): And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

Nehemiah 5:8 (Parallel theme): And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer.

1 Corinthians 13:5 (Parallel theme): Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Ezra 2:69 (Parallel theme): They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

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