

Acts 11:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

Analysis

Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

The specific accusation—entering Gentile homes and sharing meals—identifies the shocking boundary-crossing that violated Jewish purity laws.

Historical Context

Jewish law forbade entering Gentile homes and eating with them (Acts 10:28). Table fellowship signified intimate social equality and covenant relationship. Critics focused on Peter's actions (entering, eating) rather than theological justification. Around 40 CE, this represented Christian Judaism's identity crisis—could Christianity remain Jewish sect while including uncircumcised Gentiles? Peter's defense would establish theological framework resolving this tension.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why does table fellowship carry such theological significance?
2. How do practical actions often spark theological controversies?

3. What role do purity concerns play in religious boundary-maintenance?
4. In what ways does gospel inclusion challenge human social categories?
5. How should leaders respond when criticized for controversial but Spirit-led actions?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|
| λέγοντες | ὅτι | πρὸς | ἄνδρας | ἀκροβυστίαν | ἔχοντας |
| Saying | G3754 | to | men | uncircumcised | G2192 |
| G3004 | | G4314 | G435 | G203 | |
| Εἰσῆλθες | καὶ | συνέφαγες | αὐτοῖς | | |
| Thou wentest in | and | didst eat | with them | | |
| G1525 | G2532 | G4906 | G846 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:28 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

Galatians 2:12 (Parallel theme): For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

Luke 15:2 (Parallel theme): And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.