

Acts 11:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth.

Analysis

But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth. Peter's initial refusal reveals tension between calling Jesus Lord while resisting His command, illustrating struggle between tradition and fresh revelation.

Historical Context

Not so, Lord contains inherent contradiction—if Jesus is Lord, Peter can't refuse. This reflects genuine spiritual struggle when God's direction challenges fundamental identity. Nothing unclean demonstrates Peter's lifelong Torah observance. His resistance around 40 CE shows how deeply ingrained religious identity was—even apostolic witness to resurrection didn't automatically override cultural-religious formation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What contradiction exists in saying 'Not so, Lord' simultaneously?

2. How do deeply ingrained religious practices resist even direct divine commands?
3. In what ways does genuine lordship require overriding personal preferences and traditions?
4. What role does struggle play in spiritual growth and paradigm shifts?
5. How should believers handle tension between tradition and fresh divine revelation?

Interlinear Text

εἶπον	δέ	Μηδαμῶς	κύριε	ὅτι	πᾶν	κοινὸν	ἢ
I said	But	Not so	Lord	for	nothing	common	or
G2036	G1161	G3365	G2962	G3754	G3956	G2839	G2228
ἀκάθαρτον	οὐδέποτε	εἰσῆλθεν	εἰς	τὸ	στόμα	μου	
unclean	at any time	entered	into	G3588	mouth	my	
G169	G3763	G1525	G1519		G4750	G3450	

Additional Cross-References

Romans 14:14 (References Lord): I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

1 Corinthians 7:14 (Parallel theme): For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

Hosea 9:3 (References Lord): They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria.