

Acts 14:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

Analysis

As the disciples stood round about him, he rose up—After being stoned and dragged outside the city as dead, Paul's recovery was either miraculous preservation or resurrection. The Greek simply states *anastas* (rising up), the same word used for resurrection, leaving the nature of recovery ambiguous. That he **came into the city** (εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὴν πόλιν) immediately after attempted murder demonstrates apostolic courage matching Christ's resolve toward Jerusalem.

The next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe—Paul's swift departure balanced courage with wisdom, not testing God's protection needlessly. His physical resilience and mental fortitude to continue missionary work after near-death reveals grace sustaining those called to suffering witness.

Historical Context

Stoning typically resulted in death (Stephen, Acts 7:58-60). The disciples' protective circle and Paul's recovery within hours seem providential. Jewish opponents from Antioch and Iconium (v. 19) had tracked Paul to Lystra, showing coordinated resistance to gospel advance.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance courageous faithfulness with prudent wisdom when facing opposition?
2. What does Paul's immediate return to ministry after trauma teach about resilience in Christian calling?

Interlinear Text

κυκλωσάντων	δὲ	αὐτὸν	τῶν	μαθητῶν	ἀναστὰς			
stood round about	Howbeit	him	G3588	as the disciples	he rose up			
G2944	G1161	G846		G3101	G450			
εἰσῆλθεν	εἰς	τὴν	πόλιν	καὶ	τῇ	ἐπαύριον	ἐξῆλθεν	σὺν
and came	into	G3588	the city	and	G3588	the next day	he departed	with
G1525	G1519		G4172	G2532		G1887	G1831	G4862
τῷ	Βαρναβᾶ	εἰς	Δέρβην					
G3588	Barnabas	into	Derbe					
	G921	G1519	G1191					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 14:6 (Parallel theme): They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about:

2 Corinthians 6:9 (Parallel theme): As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

