

Acts 16:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

Analysis

'The multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.' Mob violence led to official persecution. The public stripping and beating was designed to humiliate and intimidate. This illegal treatment of Roman citizens shows how prejudice overrides legal protections. Passion eclipses justice.

Historical Context

Roman law forbade beating citizens without trial (Lex Valeria, Lex Porcia). The magistrates' haste to please the crowd led them to violate Paul and Silas's legal rights, creating later embarrassment (Acts 16:38).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does mob mentality lead authorities to abandon justice?
2. What should we expect when legal protections fail believers?

3. How can we respond to unjust suffering with grace?

Interlinear Text

καὶ συνεπέστη ὁ ὄχλος κατ' αὐτῶν καὶ οἱ
And **rose up together** G3588 **the multitude** **against** **their** **And** G3588
G2532 G4911 G3793 G2596 G846 G2532

στρατηγοὶ περιρρήξαντες αὐτῶν τὰ ἱμάτια ἐκέλευον
the magistrates **rent off** **their** G3588 **clothes** **and commanded**
G4755 G4048 G846 G2440 G2753

ῥαβδίζειν
to beat
G4463

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 2:2 (Parallel theme): But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

2 Corinthians 6:5 (Parallel theme): In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

Hebrews 11:36 (Parallel theme): And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

1 Peter 2:24 (Parallel theme): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.