

# Acts 17:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

## Analysis

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**And when they had taken security of Jason** (λαβόντες τὸ ἰκανὸν παρὰ τοῦ Ἰάσονος)—literally 'having received the sufficient from Jason.' The Greek *to hikanon* refers to a bail bond or surety, likely a monetary pledge guaranteeing Paul and Silas would not return to disturb the peace. Jason became legally responsible for their conduct, placing his property and freedom at risk for the gospel.

**They let them go** (ἀπέλυσαν αὐτούς)—The politarchs released Paul's team without formal charges, recognizing the accusations lacked merit. Jason's financial guarantee satisfied Roman pragmatism: order was restored without punishing innocent men. This legal maneuver allowed the gospel to advance while protecting the fledgling church, though it forced Paul to leave Thessalonica prematurely (1 Thessalonians 2:17-18 suggests Paul desperately wanted to return).

## Historical Context

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In Roman Macedonia (circa 50 AD), politarchs (city rulers) balanced maintaining order with Roman legal principles. Archaeological inscriptions confirm this unique title used in Thessalonian governance. The 'security' was likely a cash bond forfeited if Paul returned and caused further disturbances—a common Roman legal practice protecting public order while avoiding unjust imprisonment.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What has the gospel cost you in terms of risk, reputation, or resources, as it cost Jason his security?
2. How does Paul's forced departure from Thessalonica (yet productive ministry elsewhere) illustrate God's sovereignty over both success and apparent setbacks?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	λαβόντες	τὸ	ικανὸν	παρὰ	τοῦ	Ἰάσονος	καὶ
And	when they had taken	G3588	security	of	G3588	Jason	And
G2532	G2983		G2425	G3844		G2394	G2532

τῶν	λοιπῶν	ἀπέλυσαν	αὐτούς
G3588	of the other	go	them
	G3062	G630	G846

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