

Acts 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

Analysis

'When they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment' - a symbolic act of disassociation (Nehemiah 5:13). 'Your blood be upon your own heads' placed responsibility on rejectors. 'I will go unto the Gentiles' didn't end Jewish ministry but shifted focus.

Historical Context

This pattern - synagogue preaching, Jewish rejection, Gentile focus - recurred throughout Paul's ministry. His declaration expressed prophetic judgment rather than personal abandonment.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. When is shaking off rejection appropriate rather than continued appeals?

2. How do you balance persistent witness with respecting others' choices?

Interlinear Text

ἀντιτασσομένων δὲ αὐτούς καὶ βλασφημούντων
when they opposed And them and blasphemed
G498 G1161 G846 G2532 G987

ἐκτιναξάμενος τὰ ἱμάτια εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτούς Τὸ αἷμα
he shook his raiment and said unto them blood
G1621 G3588 G2440 G2036 G4314 G846 G3588 G129

ὑμῶν· ἐπὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν ὑμῶν· καθαρὸς ἐγώ· ἀπὸ τοῦ
Your be upon own heads Your am clean I from G3588
G5216 G1909 G3588 G2776 G5216 G2513 G1473 G575

νῦν εἰς τὰ ἔθνη πορεύσομαι
henceforth unto the Gentiles I will go
G3568 G1519 G3588 G1484 G4198

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 33:4 (Blood): Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

2 Samuel 1:16 (Blood): And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed.

Ezekiel 18:13 (Blood): Hath given forth upon usury, and hath taken increase: shall he then live? he shall not live: he hath done all these abominations; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him.

Nehemiah 5:13 (Parallel theme): Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.

Acts 13:51 (Parallel theme): But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

Matthew 27:25 (Blood): Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

Luke 9:5 (Parallel theme): And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

1 Peter 4:4 (Parallel theme): Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

1 Peter 4:14 (Parallel theme): If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

2 Timothy 2:25 (Parallel theme): In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;