

# Acts 19:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not.

## Analysis

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**When Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not**—Paul's instinct was martyrological courage: enter the theatre and confront the mob directly. The Greek ἐβούλετο (ebouleto, 'would have') indicates Paul's determined intention, not casual consideration. Yet **the disciples** (μαθηταί, mathētai) physically prevented him—οὐκ εἴων αὐτόν (ouk eiōn auton, 'did not permit him').

This tension between apostolic boldness and prudent protection recurs throughout Acts. Paul's willingness to die for Christ was commendable, but wisdom sometimes requires strategic retreat to preserve ministry. The disciples' intervention shows corporate discernment can temper individual zeal—even apostolic zeal. Their restraint saved Paul for years of continued ministry, including writing much of the New Testament.

## Historical Context

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This restraint contrasts with Paul's later determination to go to Jerusalem despite prophetic warnings (Acts 21:4, 11-14). Here, Paul submitted to the community's judgment; later, he insisted on following the Spirit's leading despite opposition. The difference illustrates how discernment varies by circumstance—sometimes God calls us to avoid danger, sometimes to face it.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do you discern between prudent retreat and faithless avoidance when facing opposition?
2. When have godly friends restrained you from well-intentioned but potentially harmful actions?

## Interlinear Text

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τοῦ δὲ Παύλου βουλομένου εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὸν  
G3588 **And** **Paul** **when** **have entered** **in** G3588  
G1161 G3972 G1014 G1525 G1519

δῆμον οὐκ εἶων αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταί·  
**unto the people** **not** **suffered** **him** G3588 **the disciples**  
G1218 G3756 G1439 G846 G3101

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