

Acts 19:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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 εἶδον 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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

τοῦ	δὲ	Παύλου	βουλομένου	εἰσελθεῖν	εἰς	τὸν
G3588	And	Paul	when	have entered	in	G3588
	G1161	G3972	G1014	G1525	G1519	
δῆμον	οὐκ	εἶπον	αὐτὸν	οἱ	μαθηταί·	
unto the people	not	suffered	him	G3588	the disciples	
G1218	G3756	G1439	G846		G3101	

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