

# Acts 20:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

## Analysis

'Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations.' Three characteristics mark Paul's ministry: humility, compassion (tears), and perseverance through trials. 'The lying in wait of the Jews' added constant danger.

## Historical Context

Jewish opposition in Ephesus is documented in Acts 19:33. Paul's emotional investment ('tears') shows pastoral heart beyond merely professional ministry.

## Related Passages

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

1. How do humility, compassion, and perseverance characterize authentic ministry?
2. What do Paul's tears reveal about emotional investment in pastoral work?

## Interlinear Text

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δουλεύων τῶν κυρίῳ μετὰ πάσης ταπεινοφροσύνης καὶ  
Serving which the Lord with all humility of mind and  
G1398 G3588 G2962 G3326 G3956 G5012 G2532

πολλῶν δακρύων καὶ πειρασμῶν τῶν συμβάντων μοι  
with many tears and temptations which befell me  
G4183 G1144 G2532 G3986 G3588 G4819 G3427

ἐν τῶν ἐπιβουλαῖς τῶν Ἰουδαίων  
by which the lying in wait which of the Jews  
G1722 G3588 G1917 G3588 G2453

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 2:4** (Parallel theme): For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

**Acts 20:3** (Parallel theme): And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia.

**Colossians 3:24** (References Lord): Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

**Jeremiah 13:17** (References Lord): But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive.

**Romans 12:11** (References Lord): Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

**Acts 20:31** (Parallel theme): Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

**2 Corinthians 7:5** (Parallel theme): For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.

**James 1:2** (Parallel theme): My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

**Philippians 3:18** (Parallel theme): (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

**Acts 27:23** (Parallel theme): For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,