

Acts 20:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

Analysis

'Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more.' The finality of departure intensified grief. Loss of face-to-face relationship, not merely Paul's suffering, caused deepest sorrow. Presence matters in pastoral care.

Historical Context

Whether Paul ever saw these elders again is uncertain. The anticipated permanent separation deepened the farewell's emotional weight.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does grief over losing face-to-face presence teach about ministry relationships?
2. How do you prepare for final farewells in ministry?

Interlinear Text

όδυνώμενοι μάλιστα ἐπὶ τῷ λόγῳ ὃ εἰρήκει ὅτι
Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke that
G3600 G3122 G1909 G3588 G3056 G3739 G2046 G3754

οὐκέτι μέλλουσιν τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτὸν θεωρεῖν
no more they should face him see
G3765 G3195 G3588 G4383 G846 G2334

προέπεμπον δὲ αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ πλοῖον
they accompanied And him unto the ship
G4311 G1161 G846 G1519 G3588 G4143

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:3 (Parallel theme): And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

Acts 20:25 (Parallel theme): And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.