

Acts 21:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Analysis

Both we, and they of that place, besought him (παρακαλέω, parakaléō)—The unified pleading from both Paul's traveling companions ('we') and Caesarean believers ('they of that place') revealed genuine love and concern. Yet this emotional appeal, though well-intentioned, opposed God's clear purpose for Paul's Jerusalem journey. The Greek 'besought' suggests urgent, repeated entreaty. This demonstrates that sincere Christian counsel, even from Spirit-filled believers, must be tested against one's divine calling. Affection must not override obedience.

Historical Context

This urgent pleading followed Agabus's prophetic demonstration (Acts 21:10-11) of Paul's coming imprisonment. The believers' fear was reasonable—Jerusalem had proven deadly for Stephen and James the apostle. Their love for Paul made them want to preserve his life at the cost of his mission.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you discern when loving counsel from fellow believers conflicts with God's specific calling on your life?
2. What does this passage teach about the difference between Spirit-revealed warnings and human attempts to avoid suffering?

Interlinear Text

ὥς δὲ ἠκούσαμεν ταῦτα παρεκαλοῦμεν ἡμεῖς τε
when **And** **we heard** **these things** **besought** **we** **both**
G5613 G1161 G191 G5023 G3870 G2249 G5037

καὶ οἱ ἐντόπιοι τοῦ μὴ ἀναβαίνειν αὐτὸν εἰς
and **they of that place** **not** **to go up** **him** **to**
G2532 G3588 G1786 G3588 G3361 G305 G846 G1519

Ἱερουσαλήμ
Jerusalem
G2419