

Acts 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Analysis

Paul's passionate response - 'What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart?' - reveals his deep love for fellow believers while maintaining resolute obedience to Christ. His willingness 'to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus' echoes Jesus's own determination to go to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51) and exemplifies the cruciform life Paul described in his letters (Galatians 2:20).

Historical Context

This statement proved prophetic of Paul's eventual martyrdom, though not immediately in Jerusalem. Paul's readiness to die manifested the apostolic witness Jesus commissioned (Acts 1:8), where 'witness' (martys) eventually came to mean 'martyr.'

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Are you willing to follow Christ's calling even when it costs you the comfort and approval of fellow believers?
2. How does Paul's example challenge modern Christianity's emphasis on personal safety and comfort?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη δὲ ὁ Παῦλος Τί ποιεῖτε κλαίοντες καὶ
answered Then G3588 Paul What mean ye to weep and
G611 G1161 G3972 G5101 G4160 G2799 G2532

συνθρύπτοντές μου τὴν καρδίαν ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐ μόνον
to break mine G3588 heart I for not only
G4919 G3450 G2588 G1473 G1063 G3756 G3440

δεθῆναι ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀποθανεῖν εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ ἐτοίμως
to be bound also and to die at Jerusalem ready
G1210 G235 G2532 G599 G1519 G2419 G2093

ἔχω ὑπὲρ τοῦ ὄνόματος τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ
am for G3588 the name G3588 of the Lord Jesus
G2192 G5228 G3686 G2962 G2424

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:24 (References Jesus): But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Philippians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

Revelation 12:11 (Parallel theme): And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

2 Timothy 4:6 (Parallel theme): For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Acts 5:41 (Parallel theme): And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Acts 20:37 (References Paul): And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,

Colossians 1:24 (Parallel theme): Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

2 Peter 1:14 (References Jesus): Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

Revelation 3:10 (Parallel theme): Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Acts 9:16 (Parallel theme): For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.