

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		Paul	What	mean ye	to weep	and
G611	G1161	G3588	G3972	G5101	G4160	G2799	G2532
συνθρύπτοντές	μου	τὴν	καρδίαν	ἐγὼ	γὰρ	οὐ	μόνον
to break	mine		heart	I	for	not	only
G4919	G3450	G3588	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	ὀνόματος	τοῦ	κυρίου	Ἰησοῦ	
am	for		the name		of the Lord	Jesus	
G2192	G5228	G3588	G3686	G3588	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.