

Acts 21:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

Analysis

The disciples' submission - 'The will of the Lord be done' - echoes Jesus's Gethsemane prayer and demonstrates mature spiritual discernment. They ceased urging Paul to avoid Jerusalem, recognizing that God's sovereign will transcends human wisdom or safety concerns. This represents the church's corporate surrender to divine providence even when the path leads through suffering.

Historical Context

This phrase recalls Jesus's model prayer (Matthew 6:10) and His own submission (Luke 22:42). The early church learned to trust God's purposes even when they led faithful servants into danger and apparent defeat.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you discern when to accept God's will that leads through difficulty rather than around it?

2. What does this teach about supporting fellow believers in difficult callings rather than protecting them from hardship?

Interlinear Text

μὴ	πειθομένου	δὲ	αὐτοῦ	ἡσυχάσαμεν	εἰπόντες	τὸ
not	be persuaded	And	G846	we ceased	saying	G3588
G3361	G3982	G1161		G2270	G2036	
θέλημα	Τοῦ	κυρίου	γενέσθω			
The will	G3588	of the Lord	be done			
G2307		G2962	G1096			

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:42 (Parallel theme): Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Matthew 26:39 (Parallel theme): And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Matthew 26:42 (Parallel theme): He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.