

Acts 21:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There went with us also certain of the disciples of Caesarea, and brought with them one Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with whom we should lodge.

Analysis

Certain of the disciples of Caesarea went with Paul, bringing him to **Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple** (ἀρχαῖος μαθητής, *archaios mathētēs*)—The description 'old disciple' suggests Mnason was among the earliest converts, possibly from Pentecost or shortly after. His Cypriot origin links to Barnabas (also from Cyprus, Acts 4:36), suggesting the interconnected network of first-generation believers. That Paul's companions arranged lodging with this veteran believer shows the early church's hospitality infrastructure and the honor given to long-faithful disciples.

Historical Context

Cyprus had strong early Christian connections through Barnabas and Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13:4-12). An 'old disciple' from Cyprus living near Jerusalem suggests the diaspora Jewish community's significant role in early Christianity. Mnason's established household could accommodate Paul's large traveling party.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does your church honor and utilize the wisdom of 'old disciples' who have walked with Christ for decades?
2. What does the practice of arranging hospitality through Christian networks teach about interdependence in the body of Christ?

Interlinear Text

συνῆλθον	δὲ	καὶ	τῶν	μαθητῶν	ἀπὸ	Καισαρείας
There went	G1161	also	G3588	certain of the disciples	of	Caesarea
G4905		G2532		G3101	G575	G2542
σὺν	ἡμῖν	ἄγοντες	παρ'	ὧν	ξενισθῶμεν	Μνάσωνι
with	us	and brought	with them	with whom	we should lodge	Mnason
G4862	G2254	G71	G3844	G3739	G3579	G3416
τινι	Κυπρίῳ	ἀρχαίῳ	μαθητῶν			
one	of Cyprus	an old	certain of the disciples			
G5100	G2953	G744	G3101			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:31 (Parallel theme): The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

Acts 21:8 (Parallel theme): And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

Psalms 92:14 (Parallel theme): They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;