

Acts 21:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come.

Analysis

What is it therefore?—This rhetorical question reflects the Jerusalem leaders' practical concern about managing the situation Paul's arrival created. **The multitude must needs come together** (πάντως ἀκούσεται, pántōs akoúsetai)—Literally 'they will certainly hear,' acknowledging the inevitability that Jewish Christians would learn of Paul's presence. The elders' concern wasn't Paul's guilt but managing community perceptions poisoned by false reports. This verse captures the tension between theological truth and pastoral wisdom—how to maintain gospel integrity while navigating cultural sensitivities in a transitional moment of salvation history.

Historical Context

Jerusalem housed 'many thousands' (myriades) of Jewish believers still 'zealous of the law' (Acts 21:20). News traveled quickly in the close-knit Jewish community, especially during festival seasons when the city swelled with pilgrims. The leaders faced potential riot or schism if they didn't address false accusations about Paul.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you balance theological truth with pastoral wisdom when false perceptions threaten community unity?
2. What does this passage teach about the responsibility of leadership to address rumors and misunderstandings proactively?

Interlinear Text

τί	οὖν	ἐστιν	πάντως	δεῖ	πλῆθος	συνελθεῖν·
What	therefore	is it	needs	must	the multitude	come together
G5101	G3767	G2076	G3843	G1163	G4128	G4905
ἀκούσονται	γὰρ	ὅτι	ἐλήλυθας			
they will hear	for	that	thou art come			
G191	G1063	G3754	G2064			