

# Acts 21:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them;

## Analysis

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The elders proposed a compromise: Paul should publicly sponsor four men's Nazirite vows, demonstrating his respect for Jewish customs. This represents Christian liberty applied wisely - Paul could participate in Jewish ceremonies (compare 1 Corinthians 9:20) without compromising gospel truth. The plan sought to preserve peace and witness while maintaining theological integrity.

## Historical Context

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Nazirite vows (Numbers 6:1-21) involved temporary consecration to God, ending with sacrifices at the temple. Sponsoring these vows by paying for the sacrifices was considered a pious act demonstrating devotion to Jewish tradition.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. When is cultural accommodation wise, and when does it compromise gospel truth?

2. How can you demonstrate respect for others' traditions without implying they're necessary for salvation?

## Interlinear Text

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τοῦτο	οὖν	ποιήσων	ὅ	σοι	λέγομεν·	εἰσὶν	ἡμῖν
<b>this</b>	<b>therefore</b>	<b>Do</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>to thee</b>	<b>we say</b>	<b>have</b>	<b>We</b>
G5124	G3767	G4160	G3739	G4671	G3004	G1526	G2254
ἄνδρες	τέσσαρες	εὐχὴν	ἔχοντες	ἐφ'	ἑαυτῶν		
<b>men</b>	<b>four</b>	<b>which have</b>	<b>a vow</b>	<b>on</b>	<b>them</b>		
G435	G5064	G2171	G2192	G1909	G1438		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 18:18** (Parallel theme): And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.